



Dear Parents and Carers

15 December 2021

I wanted to write to thank you for all your support during this term and over the last year. I will be writing separately in the newsletter about all the wonderful things that have gone on in school this year in spite of the limitations Covid has placed upon us - students and staff have worked very well together to keep school as safe and as 'normal' as possible. It has been extremely important to us that the children can have the very best experience possible whilst ensuring that they follow the extra rules we have had to put in place. I have been proud to see that the vast majority of them have taken those rules very seriously and have done everything that has been asked of them without complaint. Thank you for your support in encouraging them to be so conscientious. As a school, we currently have 10 confirmed positive cases - and have had very low numbers throughout the pandemic so far - a testament to how we have all worked together to protect our community.

That said, local case numbers are still some of the highest in the country and so it is important that we continue to make proactive decisions to keep numbers low so that everyone has a good chance of being well and enjoying Christmas. For the rest of this week, please follow these measures:

### Close contacts

COVID isolation rules (including Omicron) as of 14th December for close contacts:

- If students come into contact with a person with Covid (all variants), they should take daily lateral flow tests (LFTs) for seven days, whatever their age.
- The tests should be taken from the day notification is received by NHS Test and Trace, and the results should be reported online or by calling 119.
- If one of the lateral flow tests is positive, students will need to self-isolate and take a PCR test to verify the result.
- If the PCR is positive, students must self-isolate for 10 days from the day they took the positive LFT or developed symptoms.

**Even if the lateral flow tests are negative, you are "strongly advised" to limit contact with others.**

### Symptoms

- Anyone showing Covid symptoms must self isolate and take a PCR test. They must remain off school until a negative PCR result is received
- The main symptoms of Covid-19 remain:
  - A high temperature
  - A new continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
  - A loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal
- If the PCR test is positive, they must remain off school for the full 10 days

Please ensure you inform the school of either of the above so that we can keep records up to date. If you are in doubt, please visit the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> or call 111 for advice.

### **Next term**

As you may be aware, schools have been asked to carry out lateral flow testing at the start of next term. This will be a one off single test which will be administered as outlined below.

### **Consent for Testing**

- **If you have previously given consent, you do not need to do anything as this consent still stands**
- **If you have not given consent previously and would now like to, you can do so by following this link [consent form](#)**
- **If you have given consent previously but now wish to withdraw your consent, please email [secretary@stdunstansschool.com](mailto:secretary@stdunstansschool.com) stating your child's name, date of birth, year group and the fact that you wish to withdraw consent for testing.**

**Year 7 students do not have to attend school on Thursday 6 January** and we will be operating a staggered start for testing for year 7 on Friday 7 January as follows:

7LL 12 pm on Friday 7th January

7VS 1.15 pm on Friday 7th January

7RM 2 pm on Friday 7th January

7BH 2.45 pm on Friday 7th January

**Students should go home after their test and return at 8.45 on Monday 10 January for normal lessons (assuming their test result is negative).**

**If you do not wish to give consent for testing your child should return to school on Monday 10 January at 8.45am.**

It is a significant undertaking to set up the testing centre and run the days smoothly. Please ensure that your child is in school promptly for the start of their session so that we can get the groups through in the time scheduled.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,



Lynda Bevan  
Headteacher