

4th January 2022

Dear Scientia Families

COVID-19 Updates – January 2022

Welcome back to the new term, I hope you all have had a good holiday and have managed to enjoy some quality time together despite the ongoing situation with COVID-19.

I am sure you will have seen in the news that there are some changes for education settings in light of the rapidly spreading Omicron variant.

Primary schools have been given very little new guidance so we will continue to maintain the measures we already have in place:

- Ventilated classrooms.
- Enhanced cleaning.
- Hand hygiene.
- Adults wearing face masks in shared spaces.
- Adults Lateral Flow Testing twice a week.

The main change for us all is the isolation advice:

- The 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to **7 days** in most circumstances unless you cannot test for any reason.
- A reminder that day 1 of the self-isolation period is the day after your symptoms started, or the day after you had the test if you did not have symptoms.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on **day 6 and day 7** of their self-isolation period. Those who receive **two negative test results** are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion.
- If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.



Please remember that all absences **must** be reported to the school office (via the absence line – 01283 248100 option 1 or the school email address: office@scientia-academy.org.uk) by 9am.

Finally, we already have several teaching and support staff absent and we expect this to continue, we will try and cover teachers and teaching assistants where supply staff are available, but this is not always going to be possible. We will combine year groups together using existing staff and move staff from different year groups where practical. This will not be ideal, so although I will try to keep disruption down to a minimum, there will be times when the children are not with their usual teaching teams.

Thank you for supporting us in this as we try to avoid moving to remote learning. As this is a rapidly changing situation, we will keep you updated if there are any significant changes to school life.

Kindest Regards

Helen Bye

Headteacher