

3rd December 2021

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Dear Scientia Families



Headteacher:
Helen Bye

Covid-19 Update and Arrangements for Christmas

Following the recent announcements from the Government regarding the new variant Omicron, I would like to update you on changes to school life. Primary schools have not been asked to implement many new procedures yet, if this changes, we will inform you as soon as possible.

New measures:

- Adults, staff, parents and visitors, are now expected to wear masks in communal areas within the school, this includes coming into the school office.
- All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

Existing measures:

- Ventilated classrooms and school building.
- Hand washing.
- Respiratory hygiene, 'catch it, kill it, bin it'
- Children showing symptoms are to stay at home until negative PCR test result is confirmed.
- Children showing symptoms in school are sent home and classrooms are deep cleaned.
- High level of cleaning maintained in all parts of the school.
- Staff conduct twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests.

Christmas Performances

Due to the very high number of staff and pupil absences and the latest uncertainties around Omicron, I have decided that to try and put on full Christmas performances in a tightly packed hall would be too risky for the adults and very hard for the children and staff to prepare for.

Instead, we will:

- **Nursery and Reception classes will sing festive songs for families on Monday 13th December and Tuesday 14th December at 3pm in their outdoor area. Gates will be opened at 2.50pm for these families.**

A recorded version of the singing will be shared with parents via Tapestry in case of bad weather and for you to enjoy at home.

- **Year 3 and 4 classes will perform their Carol Concert outside on Wednesday 15th December and Thursday 16th December at 3pm. Gates will be opened at 2.50pm for these families.**

A recorded version will be shared on a private Scientia YouTube channel, details of how to access this will be sent out separately. This will give everyone the chance to see their children sing in case of bad weather or if you are at work.



If you do not want your child to be recorded, please let the school office know by Tuesday 7th December.

I am sure you will support this decision; my biggest priority is keeping everyone safe and making sure all our families and staff get a proper break over the holidays without more illness.

Finally, a reminder that we break up for the Christmas holiday on **Friday 17th December** at the normal end of school times. **All children** can come to school in non-uniform on this day as year groups will have their end of term celebrations, please **do not** send in any toys or food. School starts for all children on **Tuesday 4th January 2022**.

Kindest Regards

Helen Bye

Headteacher