



The Orchard Primary School
Nurture Learn Grow

3rd January 2022

Dear Parents and carers

Firstly I would like to say happy new year to you all. I hope you were able to enjoy the Christmas break and spend some valuable time with your families whilst continuing to keep yourselves safe and well.

I am also writing to confirm that the school will be open tomorrow to all children. In light of the continuing increase in the Covid-19 infection rate I thought it would be useful to remind you about our arrangements - particularly at the start and end of the day to help protect staff, pupils and parents.

- Please could we ask you all to remember to **wear a mask / face covering** when you come onto the site and particularly if you come into the building to go to the office or the hall. This is to protect you as well as other parents, staff and pupils. *Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of Covid-19.*
- We ask you to **arrive with only 1 parent / adult** to bring or collect the children.
- It is important that you **follow the one-way system** we have in place for those of you who come from Orchard Road and follow the request not to cross the playground if you come from Cromwell Road - please say goodbye to your children at the barriers. This is to prevent groups of parents from crossing and again is a measure to help to reduce the risk of contact and infection.
- It is also very important to **remember social distancing** at all times.
- When you have dropped off or collected your children please **leave the site straight away** - do not wait in the playground to watch the children or chat with other parents.
- Please remember that if your children develop any of the Covid-19 symptoms you should arrange for them to be tested.
- If the test result is positive they should remain at home for 10 days. The symptoms to particularly look out for are:
 - **a high temperature,**
 - **a new continuous cough,**
 - **loss of sense of taste or smell**

We are aware that at this time of year, the children also suffer from coughs and colds but please arrange a Covid-19 test if you feel unsure. It has been widely reported that the Omicron strain also manifests as cold symptoms so it is important for your child to at least have a lateral flow test. If your child is unwell and you are awaiting a test result, please keep her or him at home until you have confirmation of a negative result. This gives them time to recover if they are unwell and also protects the rest of the school community if their test result is positive.

Last term there were lots of children who were late for school - some of them every day. Please make sure your child arrives at school in time **to be in class by:**

- 8.55am if they are in Years 3-6 and
- 9.00am if they are in Years 1 or 2.
- **Reception children should be in class by 9.10am.**

It is **not acceptable to be late for school every day**. It is very important that the children are punctual every day as persistent lateness can mean that learning is lost at the start of each day.

The gates will open at 8.45am and the children should go straight to class. Please do not send them in earlier than 8.45am as we have a brief staff meeting until this time or the teachers are setting up the classrooms so they are not able to supervise children who arrive too early.

Other reminders:

- Please remember **not to walk across the playground** at the beginning or end of the day - this is to protect the staff and children and also so the staff in the playground have a clear view of children going to class or going home. If staff become ill the children may not be able to come to school so it is important to remember this request as part of our social distancing.
- Please **do not allow your child to ride bikes or scooters anywhere on the school site** at the beginning or end of the day.
- Please **do not allow your child to play on the Adobe** at the end of the field or to play on the play structures in the playground.

Thank you for your support and continued co-operation with these important arrangements. The ongoing vigilance of everyone in our school community will help to reduce the risk of transmission to staff, pupils and parents.

Christine Haslam
Headteacher