

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you've had a good holiday and have managed to stay healthy. A huge thank-you for your generous Christmas gifts to school staff; - they were very much appreciated.

Monday, Doncaster head-teachers met online with Public Health and representatives of Doncaster Education Department to discuss changes in procedures regarding managing incidents of Covid-19.

Return to School Guidance and Advice

Covid 19 rates across Doncaster have increased rapidly, this is linked to the new Omicron variant. It is expected that these high rates will have a significant impact on all schools throughout January.

Positive Cases of Covid 19: The self-isolation advice for people with Covid-19 has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. Pupils who have 2 consecutive negative tests on day 6 and 7 can return to school.

If parents or someone in your household contracts Covid 19:

- Children are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days. This daily test should be completed before the person leaves the household for the first time that day. If any of these test results are positive, the person should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.

If any child develops symptoms at any time, they must stay home and PCR test from the drop-in centre in Thorne or at Finningley airport.

The 3 main Covid symptoms remain:

- a temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher.
- a new continuous cough.
- a change to or loss of taste and smell.

However, if your child feels generally unwell, advice is to test using an LFD and to self-isolate if LFD tests are unavailable. (LFD test can be ordered online)

At Hatfield Woodhouse, we will continue to keep children in their class groups throughout the school day – reducing the contact between classes where-ever possible. We will continue to fog classrooms regularly and maintain the additional cleaning of toilets and areas which are frequently touched throughout the school day. Staff will wear face-covering when moving around the corridors and in communal areas. Windows will be open in classrooms for ventilation so please ensure your child is warmly dressed.

Public Health recommend that school staff, secondary aged pupils and household members of any school age child should continue with twice weekly home testing. LFD testing is most effective at identifying people with the virus when they are at their most infectious period. They also suggest that visitors to school should be limited so please phone the office for an appointment to speak to school staff.

As parents, please continue to wear face coverings and socially distance when dropping off or picking up your child from school and please bear with us if the adults in your child's class are not the usual adults. This is affecting school staff as well as children and we will work hard to ensure each class has appropriate staffing ratios.

Kind regards,

H. Adon

