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Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

## RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure most of you will be aware, the government issued updates to their Covid-19 guidance over the weekend. As a follow up to this, the Department for Education sent updated advice to schools on Sunday evening. Southwark also sent an advisory email to all Southwark schools earlier this week.

Of course, we all hope that vaccines will remain effective against the new Omicron variant and that the public health issues caused by it will be minimal. However, there will be changes to our Covid-safe practices at school to help ensure that this is the case.

Please see below for details of what we will be doing as a school in response to the new guidance and advice given from Southwark Education. These changes have already been put in place but we expect all parents adhere to the changes from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**.

### Face Coverings

- Face coverings must be worn **in communal areas** by staff, visitors and students unless they are exempt. This includes the Albert McKenzie hall, corridors, halls in the main building and in the reception area.
- Face coverings must also be worn by all parents and carers at pick up and drop off when entering the school grounds.

### Assemblies

- All assemblies will be held virtually to avoid unnecessary mixing of phase bubbles

### Ventilation

- Each class has a clean air monitor which is regularly checked
- Windows/ doors should be opened in all classroom where possible so rooms are well ventilated. Please ensure your children are wrapped up warm and are wearing a few layers in order to keep them warm.

### Testing

- We continue to encourage staff and families to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.
- If your child receives a positive LFD test result, please call the office and inform them immediately. Please then book a PCR test. If a PCR test result is positive you will need to inform school and stay at home and isolate. If your PCR test is negative your child can return to school.
- Once we have a positive confirmation, we will organise work for your child to be delivered or direct you to use the lessons provided on the Oak academy website <https://www.thenational.academy/> . Please remember to look on Teams, mathematics and reading eggs for weekly set work. If your child is unwell there is no need for them to complete any work.

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- Parents/carers should follow the government guidelines when outside of school;  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- School attendance is mandatory, meaning children should be in school every day where possible. The school will continue to monitor the attendance of children and any persistent absence from school (below 90%) will be acted upon, in-line with our attendance to school policy;

### **Social Distancing**

- Although there are no strict rules regarding social distancing we have been advised to avoid any non-urgent large group activities
- This has meant we have cancelled the following events;
  - Art exhibition
  - Winter Fair
  - Pantomime
  - Bowling Trip
  - Chess Trip
- Most events have been rescheduled and we are hoping the children can enjoy these in January
- We are avoiding any unnecessary mixing and remaining in phase bubbles where possible during the day
- Children will mix with their phase at playtime and lunchtime in the playground
- Our Carol concerts will still go ahead but will be held outside in the playground

### **Hygiene**

- Pupils and staff will be expected to use hand sanitiser / wash their hands when they arrive at school and at other intervals during the school day
- We will continue to regularly clean surfaces and ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Of course, if the situation changes, the guidance outlined above may change at short notice and we will continue to communicate with you as best we can.

As always; we must continue to take a balanced approach to such measures, ensuring students and staff health is our main priority, minimising disruption to our pupil's education. We would like to thank you for your support in helping us keep the school running as safely and effectively as possible for your children.

Regards



Rebecca Benjamins  
Headteacher

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