



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Together we make a difference

Dobcroft Junior School

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Wednesday 5th January 2022

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers

A Happy New Year to you all and I hope you have all managed to have a relaxing break and that COVID didn't interfere too much with any plans you had. We are fully back into the swing of things in school and already on day 2, we have 90+ Year 3 pupils dressed as ancient Greeks- just fabulous!

The main reason for this communication is to update you on COVID. Systems in school remain similar to the autumn term. We are responding regularly and tweaking processes as situations arise, whilst maintaining as much normality as possible. Fortunately, there is a definite intention by the government to keep schools open. I have summarised below the most relevant points from the public health briefing this morning.

Reporting positive cases	Please continue to report any positive cases to school. We will continue to keep a record of these. We will report to individual classes and groups if we meet a threshold.
10% positive threshold in a class or group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If 10% thresholds are met in school (individual classes, year groups or other small groups) then we will advise pupils to take LFD testing daily for 7 days. <i>Unfortunately we are not able to hand out LFD kits to pupils and families. We recognise there is a national shortage and please be reassured that your child can still attend school if you are unable to access a test.</i> Pupils who are contacts will not be asked to self-isolate. As we are a mainstream setting we are no longer required to report numbers of cases to public health.
Isolation period changes following a positive PCR test	<p>The updated guidance for schools states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since Wednesday 22 December, 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. 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. 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 setting on day 7.
Attendance	If you have one or more children in our school and the first child has tested positive (PCR or LFD) the second child should still attend (unless they have symptoms). However we would ask that the second child takes daily LFD testing (for 7 days) as they would be considered a close contact. If the second child does not attend, but is fit and well then this would be an unauthorised absence.
Measures in school	Regular handwashing/hand sanitising, good ventilation and staff social distancing remains in place. We have done remote assemblies this week but will return to face to face next week but in smaller groups than usual. All events and visits etc that have been planned can continue under the current guidance.
Business Continuity Planning	It is anticipated that there will be a large increase in cases in all schools nationally. The biggest challenge in the coming weeks for schools (as with other public services) will be staffing. We have already been in difficult situations in the autumn term and have continuity plans in place; however these will be updated this week in line with local authority guidance and

	support. <i>Please be reassured that it remains our priority to keep school open for all pupils and any decisions to close school- either partially or fully will absolutely be as a last resort after all possibilities have been exhausted.</i> With this in mind we would ask you to be patient during this tricky time as we may need to use strategies such as merging classes, utilising all staff etc in order to maintain face to face education.
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I hope the above information is useful and reassures you that we continue to do all we can to manage the pandemic with the minimum impact upon the children as possible. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022!

Yours Sincerely

Nicola Sexton – Head Teacher