



The Cedar School

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Communication – Empowerment – Discovery – Aspiration – Resilience

6th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 Important Information from Cedar

It has been really lovely to welcome the children back to school today ... and to hear about Red Class' exciting Home Learning. The whole staff team hopes that you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Happy New Year to you all from Cedar!

Sadly, as you will all be very aware from the news, the world continues to face challenges from Covid-19 and these are more acute at the moment due to the spread of the Omicron variant.

The government has been very clear that schools will remain open but that, where staffing numbers make on-site learning unsustainable, children will switch to Home Learning. Home Learning would never be our first option but, where it is safest, we will do this.

Today and tomorrow, Red Class are involved in Home Learning because all of the staff in the class are either positive for Covid-19 or are a household close contact of someone with Covid-19. Red Class will be able to return to school on Monday ... and we very much look forward to seeing the children again in person then!

We have had a number of discussions with a lead doctor at Public Health who has advised us to consider our staff as staff who work in health and social care settings due to the medical needs of many of our children. Staff in these settings have higher thresholds of safety precautions. These include the fact that any staff who are a close contact of someone who is positive do not carry out public-facing work for a short time. We have decided to implement these guidelines for our staff, meaning that there will be times when some of our staff are in school but not directly working with children. **This is all about trying to keep your children as safe as we can at all times.**

In addition, we will continue to work in bubbles, to wear masks in communal areas and to adhere to social distancing. All staff will do a daily lateral flow test. Secondary children will do a lateral flow test twice a week and we are inviting primary children to do the same if parents/carers agree. All primary families will be phoned about this option.

*The Cedar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people.
It expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to the school to share and embrace this commitment.*

Headteacher - Neil Revell

Deputy Headteacher - Cesia Moran

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This all means that there might be occasions when we need to contact you to collect your child and, in the event of a high number of staff suddenly testing positive on lateral flow tests, for your child to move to Home Learning for a short period of time. We very much hope that this does not happen often but I would be wrong not to forewarn you. We apologise in advance about any inconvenience which this would cause but ask you, please, to keep your phones available so that you can receive any calls from school. Very many thanks for your understanding. **I reiterate that this is all about keeping everyone as safe as we can at this time.**

Lower staffing numbers might also mean, at times, that some of the opportunities which we would ideally offer for all children cannot be met. Class teachers will let you know if this is the case; we will always be transparent with you.

Above all, we want your children to stay safe; it is important that everyone adheres to the latest government requirements at all times.

We send love and best wishes to any children who currently have Covid-19 and who are self-isolating; we look forward to welcoming you back to school very soon!

It feels awful writing a letter so much about Covid-19 at the start of a term which, I know, will be full of exciting learning and much enjoyment for the children. I know how hard the staff have been working to prepare for the term!

Please do get in touch if you have any questions about any of the information in this letter. Please note also that our updated Covid-19 school Risk Assessment is on our school website.

Thank you for your support at all times.

With my very best wishes as always,



Neil Revell
Headteacher