

12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Newsletter**

Happy New Year and welcome back!

2022 has not started in the best of ways as the new Covid variant Omicron has continued to impact all workplaces. School is no exception. Please be aware that since we have returned we have had an unusually high level of staff absences to cope with. Unfortunately, this does not look like it will change in the near future.

Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed their recent visit to the Pantomime at the Alhambra. The planned Young Voices performance in Sheffield has been postponed to the Summer Term; we are hopeful it will be able to go ahead then.

### **Temporary Wednesday afternoon closure**

From Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, school will close at 1pm on Wednesdays for staff planning and preparation. This is a temporary measure due to the high levels of staff absence we are experiencing. It will start on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January up to half term in the first instance. This will be reviewed before half term (18/02/2022). A letter from our CEO Michael McCarthy explaining the decision, accompanies this newsletter.

Children should be collected from classroom doors at 1pm on Wednesdays. In order to mitigate some of this time, school will open at the earlier time of 8:30am while this arrangement is in place. Children will have their lunch in school before they are collected at 1pm.

### **Afternoon Nursery is unaffected, and children should continue to attend on Wednesday afternoons.**

Unfortunately, this means that afternoon clubs will no longer go ahead on Wednesday for the remainder of this term. If you have paid for a place in school clubs on a Wednesday, this will be refunded by our school office – you do not need to contact the office to arrange this.

Attendance at enrichment club for those who have no other childcare available, is through arrangement with school. Please contact the school office to request a place.

### **New guidance regarding Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs)**

If your child has covid symptoms they should still isolate immediately and take a PCR test. Children should isolate until the result comes back. You should then report the results to school as normal. This government advice has not changed.

However, from 11<sup>th</sup> January, if your child DOES NOT have covid symptoms but has taken a LFT test and it is positive (asymptomatic), they should isolate immediately, but you do not need to take them for a PCR



test. You must still report the result of the LFT test on [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) and you will then receive notification which you can forward to school as evidence. This means we can authorise the absence.

This is a temporary measure from the government while the number of positive cases remains high. Primary age children do not routinely need to take LFT tests, and so this will only arise where an LFT has been taken because of other circumstances within the family.

### **Other Covid mitigations**

Be assured that providing the best level of education is always our priority, and we continue to take measures to mitigate the transmission of Covid, following all advice from the department of education and public Health.

To ensure the air quality is good, we will open windows frequently, even during these winter months to ensure adequate ventilation. Please make sure your child is dressed in warm clothing as part of their uniform – perhaps including a vest, and make sure they have a sweatshirt or cardigan. Additional handwashing and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will continue.

Thank you for your continued support,

Lorraine Martin  
Headteacher