



1st December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on our safety procedures in school, in light of announcements by Welsh Government this week which you can find here: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-omicron-variant-concern-school-operations>.

As you know, so far this term, we have been keeping everyone safe by:

- checking for Covid-19 symptoms every day,
- keeping a one-way system in some areas of the school,
- wearing face-coverings in communal spaces, corridors and on school transport.
- generally arranging tables to face forwards in class rooms and
- cleaning surfaces in classrooms, corridors and the canteen regularly.

In addition to these measures, all secondary school children in Wales will now be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms where they are not able to maintain social distance from each other. We appreciate that this will present an additional challenge and an element of discomfort for students in the school, but we appreciate your support in implementing these additional measures in the interests of everyone's safety from the latest strain of the coronavirus.

It is my understanding that this situation will be reviewed at the end of this term, and I will of course let you know of any updates on our procedures in time for the start of new term in January.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering in school, then we would ask that they make themselves known to the pastoral team if they have not done so already, and consider carrying an exemption card or lanyard.

I hope that this clarifies the situation with regard to face coverings, but with regard to the other measures we have in place, it is still important that you and your children:

- **Are alert for new symptoms.**
If your child starts to feel unwell, no matter how mild the symptoms are, your child should stay away from school and get a PCR test. You can book a PCR test online through the NHS website at <http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
- **Keep the school informed.**
Please inform the school if your child is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, it is recommended that you arrange a test and inform us of the results once received.

- **Use Lateral Flow Tests**
We advise that your child takes regular lateral flow tests (LFT's) on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, and record the results online [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). Please contact the school if you need any more tests, or you can order a supply free of charge to your home from <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/condition>
- **Keep washing hands regularly.**
This is still an important way to limit the spread of many infections, including COVID-19.
- **Continue to reduce your wider contacts and keep yourselves and your families safe.**

Many of you will know, that we have taken the additional step of asking staff and students to stay at home if a member of their household has tested positive or has symptoms – I am sure you would agree that the likelihood of a household member of a person who has tested positive contracting the virus is higher than it is for other contacts, and so we feel that this is a sensible request under the circumstances. Where possible, we have continued to set work for students in this position, and we hope you have found this helpful.

As always, I am grateful to you for all your support of the school, its staff and its students in these challenging times, but please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help you in any way.

With kind regards,

Ian Gerrard

Headteacher.

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