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**HANDS – FACE – SPACE – FRESH AIR ----- ACT AS IF YOU'VE GOT IT**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Spring Newsletter #1**

Dear Parents,

Happy 2022! I hope you have all managed to enjoy a relaxing and healthy Christmas break.

I am happy to say that we are open for business tomorrow as normal (covid-style). We have consulted with staff and reviewed the latest guidance from the government and school unions to make a few changes to our daily routines to help keep us all as safe as possible. This letter is to advise you on some of these changes that will take effect from tomorrow, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, as well as a reminder about routines already in place.

The front gate on the slope will be a one-way entrance to school only. If you are coming in this way please exit by the back gate or walk round the school and exit by the main car park. Please note that the back gate will continue to be two-way to help you because this is a less congested area.

Unless you are exempt, please wear a mask on the school site.

In school we have tightened up on mixing across year groups to ensure this is minimised as much as possible while still maintaining the integrity of face to face teaching. For example, each year group will have a designated play area outside for the foreseeable future and use of the hall for school dinners has been further staggered between year groups.

Ensuring adequate ventilation in classes is a key action. To this end we have CO<sub>2</sub> monitors in all classes. When levels increase, staff open windows and doors which only takes about 10 minutes to clear out all the airborne bugs. As a matter of routine, staff also open all doors and windows as soon as the children go outside to play.

We have reviewed our cleaning measures and further enhanced these, including a further increase to cleaning time.

Teachers will be ensuring that children's personal hygiene is embedded in class routines.

Staff will be wearing face coverings when moving round the school. Each phase of the school has a separate staff room. All staff meetings are virtual and all staff will be doing their best not to mix with staff outside of their year and phase. This is not possible for all staff however such as school leaders, pastoral, speech and language and essential visiting professionals.

*KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION*

With the rise of Omicron we are anticipating further challenges caused by high levels of staff absence as we had in November and December. We will be doing everything we can to ensure face to face education continues (which is the government's preferred option) but with my ultimate duty of care to staff and pupils, I will consider moving to remote learning if necessary. If this happens it is likely to be only for one year group at a time rather than whole school. Teaching staff are ready and prepared to move to this if needed. Although not ideal, we did this for Year 4 for 3 days at the end of last term with Miss Pritchard doing an amazing job live streaming lessons from home with several parents commented on how good it was. If we do move to remote learning and your child is vulnerable, has an EHCP or you are a key worker, we will work hard to provide in-school provision for them.

If (and when?) cases of Covid increase again, we will be consulting with Public Health about any measures to take. In Torbay, all schools have an agreed protocol for contingency measures and there is always someone on the end of the phone to advise which is very helpful.

The government still expects your child to attend school. However, if they develop symptoms – even if you are not sure it might be covid – please do keep the home and organise a PCR test as soon as possible. They will be marked as 'ill' and this will not count against you. Teachers will provide work if they have to isolate but please give them a chance to organise this. Contact them directly via the class email.

If your child is isolating because they are positive, the isolation period is now 7 days. They (including under 5s) and you can 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 school from day 7.

You might find it useful to have a look at the government's guidance for parents which was updated on 2<sup>nd</sup> January which you can access directly by [clicking here](#).

I'm sure, like all of us, you have worries about the term ahead as it is very uncertain times we live in. I believe we are doing everything we possibly can to keep us all safe while continuing to provide quality education. If you do have any thoughts on what more we can do, we are very happy to hear them. Please do let us know either on the gate or via email. We are also happy to take any questions if you need clarification.

Wishing us all a healthy spring term. Best wishes,



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)