



Ark St Alban's Academy

29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Saturday 27 November, the government announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant until we have more information. On Sunday, the government has today explained what this means for schools. They have outlined their advice [here](#).

These changes will take effect from tomorrow, Tuesday 30th November 29th November at Ark St Alban's Academy:

Face coverings

All staff, visitors and pupils will need to wear a face covering when in communal areas such as corridors.

Please provide your child with a face covering to bring with them to school, and to wear on public transport if that is their method for travelling to school.

Continue to test using Lateral Flow Device tests at home

All pupils and staff should continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. A reminder that if the result of this is positive, you must do the following:

- Self-isolate straight away ([check if people you live with need to self-isolate](#));
- Get a PCR test (a test that is sent to a lab) to confirm your result as soon as possible ([PCR testing guidance](#))

Please report the results of your LFD tests to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> . Both negative and positive results need to be reported.

Test & Trace changes

Test and Trace may contact you if you are a confirmed close contact of the Omicron variant. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate. If this is the case, please inform the school as soon as possible and share the information that you have been provided with.

Travel guidance

There are changes to travel guidance, please ensure you understand the implication for any holiday plans in December and your return to school in January.

A reminder that school will re-open on Wednesday 5th January.

What is not changing?

At the moment there is **no** requirement for us to return to bubbles, wear masks in classrooms or to cancel parent events or pupil trips.

Overall, the government wants us to take a responsible approach to managing the risk of Covid-19 whilst also continuing to prioritise pupils' education. We will continue to make reasonable assessments about the level of risk involved in all activities.

As ever, we are so grateful for your support. We will continue to communicate swiftly and openly with you about these important matters.

Kind regards,



Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy