



January 2022

New year updates

Dear Parent/Carer,

Having only written to you just under a month ago I hope this letter finds you and your families well rested after the Christmas break.

Over the past two weeks much has changed regarding COVID-19 and its impact in schools. Below I have set out the key changes and information we would like to share with pupils, parents and carers.

Testing: With daily case numbers of COVID-19 continuing to increase, lateral flow testing remains vital in ensuring pupils and staff do not attend sites when they have a positive case. We have recently ordered more LFD kits and if you require more for your child, please contact the base who will be able to provide them once our new stock has arrived. We continue to ask that all secondary age pupils test every Wednesday and Sunday.

Masks: You will have recently seen that secondary age pupils have now been advised to wear masks in communal and classroom spaces from the start of this term. If your child wishes to wear a mask, then this will of course be supported. We are aware however that a number of our pupils find the wearing of mask challenging and we will not ever enforce mask wearing for pupils who do not want to voluntarily participate.

Remote learning: Where the increase in positive cases means that a number of staff are absent we may in exceptional circumstances require pupils to undertake a proportion of their learning online. These decisions will be made as a last resort and we will try and provide as much notice as possible if this is likely to be the case at any point.

Isolation: Since Wednesday, 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Pupils may now take lateral flow 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 pupils do not have a high temperature, they can end self-isolation after the second negative test and return to their base from day 8.

Close contacts: People who are fully vaccinated, or young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

These measures are set to be reviewed on the 26th January as part of the government's Plan B review. If further changes are required from this point, then we will be in contact again.

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Parent participation forums

As indicated in the last newsletter at 15:00 on the 13th January we will be introducing our first parent participation forum at ACE schools. Due to the range of provisions we have across the Southwest we want to use the Teams platform to bring parents and carers together for the first time to meet the Headteacher and the local community Governors and associated Trustees. If you would like to find out more about how these groups will work moving forward please follow the link or the QR below and we look forward to meeting you in January.

<https://tinyurl.com/4tcnb632>



Queen's Platinum jubilee bank holiday

A reminder that this year to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee schools have been allocated an extra bank holiday to place within the year. At ACE we have decided to place the bank holiday on the 31st January meaning that pupils will not be required to attend school on this day. If you have any questions about this arrangement please contact your child's base.

Thank you again for all your support this year and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Bindon'.

Matt Bindon
Headteacher
ACE Schools

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