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Head Teacher: Mr S Arnold

30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have received revised 'Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance' to support us in managing the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This is in response to the Prime Minister's announcement on 27<sup>th</sup> November and the introduction of temporary measures as a result of the Omicron Variant. We have been advised that the revised documentation remains subject to change as scientists learn more about this new variant.

Here at Oak Meadow, we will continue to deliver face to face, high quality education to all pupils. As the guidance states, 'evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, mental and physical health.'

Having read the revised guidance and in response to its recommendations, we will now kindly ask all visitors to wear a face covering when entering the school's reception area. This will help to protect both you as the wearer and the members of staff against the spread of infection as they cover the nose and mouth which are the main confirmed sources of transmission. The guidance also gives staff members the option of wearing a face covering when moving around corridors and communal areas. With regards to our children, the health advice continues to state that children in primary school are not required to wear face coverings and should not be asked to wear one.

As with all previous guidance, we continually monitor the situation and we will adjust our safety controls if required.

In addition to the regular bulletins we receive from the Department for Education, there has recently been a DfE article released asking if schools should continue with Christmas and nativity plays. We believe that it is important for our Reception and Year 1 Christmas assemblies to take place particularly following the disappointment of not leading them last year for our current Year 2 and 1 children. Therefore, we look forward to our assemblies taking place with your support and assistance in sanitising hands, which will be provided by the hall doors, and a wearing of face coverings. We will also ensure the communal hall windows and doors remain open to ensure there is appropriate ventilation. We will balance this with ensuring it doesn't get too cold.

Finally, I write to thank you for your continued support with our requests for a PCR test when your child presents with symptoms, including those which are additional to the ones listed: a new cough, temperature and loss of taste and smell. This helps us immensely with our monitoring and reporting of cases to the Local Authority and minimising of the potential spread of COVID-19. Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Arnold  
Headteacher

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...

