

## Updated Covid-19 Guidance for Schools

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware – government guidance changed from Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November in response to the emergence of the Omicron variant of covid-19.

### Face Coverings

In Primary schools it has once again be recommended that face coverings should be worn by all staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas, unless they are exempt. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings. These changes were explained to pupils in year 1 – year 6 during our online assembly on Monday.

### Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place – which means that close contacts should take PCR tests but do not need to isolate unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. The exception is for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases, who will be asked to isolate for 10 days:

**All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant** of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace or the local health protection team and required to **self-isolate immediately** and asked to book a PCR test.

As before – you as parents will be contacted by Test and Trace if you or your child are identified as a close or direct contact of a positive case. As a school we will continue to inform you if there has been a confirmed case in your child’s class or year group and your child should continue to attend school unless you are contacted by Test and Trace and told different.

| What if ...                                | Action to take:  |
|--|--|
| My child has Covid symptoms...             | “Child self-isolates and book a PCR test”  |
| My child has Covid symptoms in school...   | “We will call you, child self-isolates and we will ask you to book a PCR test”                             |
| My child takes a LFT and it is positive... | “ <b>Let school know</b> , report the LFT positive test online, child to self-isolate and book a PCR test” |

Southglade Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

My child has a positive PCR test result...

**“Let school know,** (we will need to see proof of the positive test result) and continue to self-isolate for 10 days. NHS Test and Trace will contact you for details”  
If you need support in identifying close contacts in school then we will support you with this.

### Assemblies

We have also made the decision to postpone all face to face assemblies until the new year.

### Christmas Events

At the moment, all our planned Christmas events are going ahead as expected, but in line with the new guidance, we request that all visitors entering the school building wear a face covering unless exempt. This includes anyone attending our Christmas fair tomorrow and anyone attending our Foundation stage and KS 1 Christmas performances.

We will continue to review our practices to ensure that all government guidance is adhered to and that we respond swiftly and appropriately to any changes in our setting. We have an outbreak management plan in place which we will action if necessary. Any changes will be communicated via the Marvellous Me App, our school website and Twitter.

Kind Regards,

Alison Thomas

*A. Thomas*

Head Teacher

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