



Monday 3 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

As we get ready to welcome the children back tomorrow for the start of Term 3, I just wanted to get in touch to confirm our plans with regards to the current Covid situation.

The government have made it clear that it is almost business as usual for primary schools and that we will continue with the plans that were in place during terms 1 and 2. We will continue to do all we can to limit the spread of any infection by continuing with high levels of hygiene, regular hand sanitising and hand washing, increased ventilation in class and limiting opportunities for larger groups of children to mix.

We also have our outbreak management plan in place and will take further action as necessary should we have a significant increase in cases in a class or across the school. Further action can include reintroducing bubbles, separating further the children at break and lunchtimes plus a range of other control measures similar to those in place following the first lockdown.

It is clear that the new Omicron variant of Covid is much more transmissible and has the potential to cause a great deal of disruption for us as the term gets underway. Schools across the country (including us at Warden House) are very worried about the potential for disruption should large numbers of staff and children become infected with this new variant.

How can parents and carers help?

In order to limit the chances of disruption and illness spreading, we ask for your help as parents in being extra-vigilant when presented with any illness in your child. Although the main covid symptoms (cough, temperature and loss of taste and smell) remain, many are reporting additional symptoms that are consistent with the Omicron variant. These include: tiredness, headache, cold-like symptoms including a sore and scratchy throat. Further information can be read here: [Omicron symptoms: What to look out for from Covid variant \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/health/omeron-symptoms-what-to-look-out-for-from-covid-variant) . Please note that this is not official NHS information, however is useful to be aware of.

Please do keep your child at home if they are unwell and seek a full PCR test as soon as possible. We must stress that lateral flow (LFD) tests should not be used to test children who are unwell. A full PCR test must be used.



Unlike secondary schools, there is no requirement for primary school children to wear masks in lessons, however if your child chooses to do so, then this is completely up to them and something that we will support.

The Department for Education have released the update below that may also be of use regarding the return to school this term.

[What to expect when schools, colleges, universities and early years settings return after the Christmas break - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Should your child be isolating at home, but be well enough for school work, please contact the office who will be able to liaise with the class teacher to enable remote learning to be set.

I look forward to seeing you all and welcoming the children back to school tomorrow.

Best wishes

Mr. Rob Hackett
Headteacher