



Friars Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

Principal - Mr C. McClay

Vice Principal – Mr S.Roche

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CEO – Mrs C. Woolf

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term! We do hope that everyone managed to enjoy the Christmas break as much as possible. After the school closure of last January, it has been wonderful to start a new calendar year with the children in school, as they should be. Let us all hope for as little disruption as possible over this spring term. We were able to enjoy so many great school events in the lead up to Christmas and we hope we can do much more in 2022. We are all very excited that 2022 marks Friars 50th year and in the summer term we are hoping to celebrate in style – watch out in future newsletters for more information.

One way to be further involved in school life is by being part of our Parent Council. We always welcome new members so if you are ever interested in joining, please email the school office and we will be in touch. The Parent Council typically meets once per half term.

COVID-19

Obviously the current virus picture is concerning, with very high numbers of people testing positive each day. We know that the virus is present within the community and it was upsetting to hear that so many families and staff members were affected over the holiday. For the time being, in-school measures remain the same as in the autumn term.

Thank you for engaging in lateral flow testing before the return to school. We do know, as parents, that testing younger children can be unpleasant but it is an excellent way of reducing cases in school and preventing further spread. We would appreciate continued engagement in lateral flow testing during these challenging times.

Testing

Symptoms: If your child ever shows COVID-19 symptoms, they must have a PCR test not a lateral flow device test (LFD). If the test returns a negative result, they can return to school.

Asymptomatic testing: If your child tests positive on a lateral flow device test, please do book a confirmatory PCR test. When you have the PCR result, please make contact with the school as soon as possible to let us know the result. Unfortunately, we may not receive this information from Test and Trace.

Local authority guidance now asks us to notify parents and carers of confirmed cases. If there is a confirmed case in your child's class, we will send you an advice letter. Your child should still attend school if they are well and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Self-isolation for Confirmed Cases

Typically, the self-isolation period for COVID-19 is 10 full days; however, you will no doubt be aware that self-isolation can end before the end of the 10 days. If your child has COVID-19 they can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day the symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. If your child does have COVID-19, please do contact the school if they will be returning earlier than the 10-day self-isolation period.

If you are ever in any doubt about COVID-19 related matters, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Finally, today you will also receive a letter regarding after school clubs if your child is in KS1 or KS2. Reply slips must be back by morning registration on Friday.

Once again, thank you for all of the support you show the school. All the very best for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

C. McClay

S. Roche

Mr. C. McClay
Principal

Mr. S. Roche
Vice-Principal