

2nd January 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have managed to have some rest and enjoyed family time over the break. As we head toward a new term, I am writing to update you on the latest information and requirements that were issued to Cheshire East schools on December 31st by the local authority.

I know that currently we don't have answers as to how this new variant, Omicron, will spread in school but we need to support measures that will allow school to remain open and for there to be as little disruption as possible to the children's education.

LFD testing regularly continues to be requested. School asking you to do the tests at home does require, of course, for families to be able to access LFD and PCR tests and we appreciate this, too, is now proving a challenge.

Please LFT your child regularly over the next few weeks, in particular. The vast majority of children with Covid are asymptomatic so you really can't tell at the point they are infectious without testing. If you are able to do an LFD test before the children return on Wednesday that would be helpful. Moving forward, a Sunday night check would also help to stop COVID re-entering school each week. If a PCR test is needed for confirmation, please can these be done at walk-in centres rather than postal requests, where possible. There have been a number of delays around the postal testing requests in the past resulting in some children being off school longer than needed. Every day and every lesson in school counts.

Keeping schools open has been a national priority and heads and managers in Cheshire East worked extremely hard last term to ensure that our children and young people were able to experience face to face education. Cases amongst staff and pupils were very high and this contributed to high levels of absence across Cheshire East. As a school our attendance dipped drastically at the start of the term and began to pick up towards the end of the term. We celebrated the day we had a full school of children – a rare day in the autumn term!

We will do everything we can to maintain an open and fully-functioning school. Closing classes will be the absolute last resort, if we cannot staff them safely. Supply agency workers are very difficult to source and moving staff around can accelerate spread, so we are at times limited in the actions we can take. Where we have rising case numbers in school we come under the guidance of the local authority and public health board, who manage what has to be done.

If your child is absent due to a requirement to isolate, online work will be set in line with our remote education plan through Seesaw. We cannot guarantee exactly how the online learning will look as it is teacher dependent – so please be patient with us. The children's login remains the same.

What has changed since last term?

- **Staff - reduced self-isolation period for confirmed staff cases of Covid-19**

Nationally this has changed from 10 to 7 days but this will **ONLY apply to staff**, with specific criteria. Those able to return after 7 days will have to follow further precautions until end of day 10.

- **Pupils - self-isolation period for confirmed pupil cases of Covid-19**

Pupils are unlikely to be able to follow the advice in the national guidance which states that they should “limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces”. Therefore, advice from Cheshire East Public Health is that they should not come into school and should follow the **stay at home guidance for the full 10-day period**. Wrenbury pupils are required to do this.

- **Close contact isolation**

The **five day close contact isolation** within Cheshire East remains in place till mid-January at least for all children within a household where someone has tested positive.

Vaccination update

The JCVI has issued new guidance which expands the number of children and young people for whom vaccination is advised. [jcvl update on covid-19vaccination of children and young people](#)

- Children aged 5 to 11 years in a **clinical risk group or who is a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed should be offered two doses**. If this applies to your child contact your doctor's surgery to seek further advice on how these vaccinations are being booked and administered.

As always, if in any doubt ring us before sending your child in. Please ensure you contact us by **9am on the first day of absence** if your child tests positive on an LFT. We will then confirm the return date with you and ensure the case is accurately reported to the local authority.

Please note: *the 10 day isolation for all children is a Cheshire East requirement and not national so dates you may be issued with from Test and Trace may differ from the 10 day ones Cheshire East are asking schools to apply.*

We really look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday morning – January 5th.

Drop Off: 8:40 to 8:55a.m.

Gate will be locked at 8.55am. Please continue to use the MUGA gate (access from communal community car park) and use the one-way system established around the school site to limit contacts.

Lessons start promptly at 9am after registration (8:55-9:00am). Please arrive no later than 8:55am to avoid disrupting the start of the school day for the rest of the class.

Collection: 3:20pm (no later than 3:30pm)

All pupils will come out at 3.20p.m to be collected from their exit points (B5 and B3 front yard; Little Wrens, B1, B2, and B4 back yard)

Report all other absences as early as possible but no later than 9.30am by emailing:

admin@wrenbury.cheshire.sch.uk or phoning school on 01270 260656

Please leave a message if the phone is not answered by a member of staff.

Kind regards and all the very best for 2022.

Mrs Bessa Cador