

29/11/2021

Omicron variant of COVID-19

Dear Parents/Carers,

As confirmed by the Prime minister during Saturday evening's briefing, there have been some confirmed cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 detected in the UK. While the Government assesses the transmissibility and severity of this strain, and also under recent guidance from the Local Authority Public Health team, we have been asked to temporarily step up safety measures in school.

What can I expect to see in school?

With the intention of keeping cases numbers low, allowing face-to-face teaching to continue and protecting everyone in our school community, we have retained a number of measures from the start of the academic year. These measures include:

- Limiting the occupancy of the staff room and encouraging social distancing between staff
- Enhanced daily cleaning of high frequency touch points, toilets and dining areas
- Encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Pupils playing outside in year groups to limit cross age group mixing
- Ventilation of occupied spaces

In addition to these measures, you can now also expect to see:

- All staff and visitors (including parents) wearing face coverings (unless exempt) in communal areas around the building
- Any close contacts of a case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 will be asked to isolate for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status. This is a change from the existing guidance for all other strains of the virus

We had already taken the difficult decision not to host our regular Christmas events such as the Fair and the children's performances. On Saturday, the Department for Education tweeted an unhelpful piece about performances going ahead in schools. We live with the responsibility of making sound decisions to protect our community and to ensure that school remains open to as many pupils as possible. While we would love to welcome the children's families into school, it unfortunately remains the case that doing so could increase the risk of transmission of the virus.

We will ensure that the children continue to get a rich, balanced curriculum until the end of term and you can look forward to seeing your children perform a festive song or poem with their year group. These special

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. J. Ashcroft

performances will be recorded and released on the school blog and on our social media channels leading up to the Christmas holidays. Please see the table below for details of when your child's performance will be available to view at www.oldmoat.manchester.sch.uk/blog

Year Group	Date performance online
Year 6	Monday 6 th December
Year 5	Tuesday 7 th December
Year 4	Wednesday 8 th December
Year 3	Thursday 9 th December
Year 2	Friday 10 th December
Year 1	Monday 13 th December
Reception	Tuesday 14 th December
Nursery	Wednesday 15 th December

The children also have a Christmas party and festive Christmas dinner to look forward to on Wednesday 15th December.

We are all patiently waiting for the day when we can safely return to what we know as "normal". Until then, we are appreciative of the overwhelming support from our school community and thank you for understanding the tough decisions that we have to take in the interests of the safety of pupils, parents and staff.

Yours sincerely,



Mr O. Kerr

Headteacher