

Friday 10th December 2021

By email to all parents

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we adapt our end of term to ensure we are remaining as safe as possible in terms of Covid-19. I am writing to you regarding the increased number of cases in our community and nationally and what will be happening in school in response.

With the Omicron variant and increased COVID-19 cases, the government has implemented their Plan B arrangements in England to reduce transmission.

Providing face-to-face learning to our pupils is a priority, and your child must continue to come to school unless they are unwell or are required to self-isolate by NHS Test & Trace.

As ever, our priority is the safety of pupils and staff. We have an Outbreak Management Plan to ensure we are well prepared for future changes.

Increased cases in school

Over the last week there has been an increase in cases in the school. In the last week there have been 16 pupil cases and 7 staff cases. We have taken advice about these cases from Public Health England and Ark Schools and put in place additional controls where appropriate in Year 5 and Nursery.

Continue Testing

The main defence against wider transmission is through testing. All staff and all secondary pupils continue to test twice a week. We continue to provide tests for staff and secondary pupils, but you can also order and [collect](#) these from a local pharmacy.

We encourage you to follow Government guidance on testing over the holidays. This means taking a rapid lateral flow test any day when you will be in a high-risk environment (such as a crowded or enclosed space) or before visiting people who are at high risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19 as well as twice a week anyway.

In person school meetings now need a Lateral Flow Test

We return to talking to parents over the phone or outside wherever possible but when we think an in person indoor meeting is vital, we are now asking parents, carers, and other visitors to take a rapid lateral flow test before any visit to the school. If you are attending a meeting please be ready to have evidence of a lateral flow test from that day (a text or update on the Covid App) to show on a mobile device.

Change to in person events

In EYFS Stay and Play mornings have all been cancelled next week (please see separate email sent directly to you).

In Year 11 and Year 13, in person parents evenings on 15th December will now be remote (please see separate email sent directly to you).

Travel

For families who are still planning to travel abroad over the holidays, please be mindful of the travel restrictions in place in the countries you are travelling to and keep a close eye on UK government advice, guidance and changes to procedures. The government has issued a requirement for people returning from certain countries which are on the red list, to be quarantined in a managed hotel for 10 days on their return, which will include taking COVID tests, even if they are fully vaccinated. These restrictions continue to apply if there has been a transit stop in a red listed country. [The latest guidance on quarantine is here](#). The first day back in school will be January 5th. Any quarantine must be completed before this date.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school using the email: parents@kingsolomonacademy.org.

Yours faithfully,

Max Haimendorf
Principal