



Friday 9th of December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come near the end of what has been another challenging term, I wanted to write to thank you for the continued support you give to your child and the school. During this term, we have endeavoured to balance the challenges of keeping pupils and staff as safe as possible during this continuing global pandemic, whilst ensuring that high quality teaching continues. This has been achieved thanks to the commitment and determination of our staff in all areas and I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank them as they approach the Christmas break.

As we move into the next term and the winter months, with the national COVID-19 situation worsening again, we will continue to ask for your continued support with understanding the challenges the school is facing. Whilst we are doing the best we can, it is more important than ever that we continue to work together in a strong partnership between pupils, parents, carers and the school to ensure the best for all our pupils.

I would also like to mention that due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases within the school and the community, and following the advice from the UKHSA, we sadly had to cancel our Christmas show due to take place on the 15th of December. All annual reviews are now taking place virtually and visitors into the building are restricted to essential persons only until further notice. If a visit is unavoidable, we would ask any visitor to socially distance when on the campus, wear a mask at all times and undertake a Lateral Flow Test on arrival.

It is also important that over the upcoming festive season, we all continue to stay safe and follow the government guidance regarding Covid-19 as outlined at the end of this letter. As recommended by the Director of Public Health, we would also strongly encourage all pupils to get a PCR test before coming back to school in January 2022 in order to reduce the risk of asymptomatic people spreading the virus to others within the school and in our community.

The last date for pupils to attend school this term will be on **Thursday 16th of December 2021**. On this day we will be finishing at **1:30pm**. In the spring term, the school will reopen on Wednesday 5th of January at normal times.

All staff at Riverside Bridge School would like to wish you and your families a safe and very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to welcoming you back safely in January.

Kindest Regards,

Miss L Amri
Deputy Headteacher



What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19?

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known.

If negative, your child can end self-isolation; if positive, your child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If the child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken.

This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test and this can be arranged via Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) or by calling 119.

What is the latest advice for the contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

If someone is identified as a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19, then they must stay at home and self-isolate unless they meet one of the following conditions:

- are fully vaccinated¹;
- are below the age of 18 years 6 months;
- have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial;
- are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

However, if they live with or are contact of someone who has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, then the above conditions do not apply, and

¹ Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.



they must stay at home and self-isolate (even if they are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months). For more information on this, please see the latest guidance.

[Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](#)

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

NHS Test and Trace will get in touch with anyone who is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to check whether they are legally required to self-isolate. If they are not legally required to self-isolate, then they will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if they do not have symptoms, they will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible.

You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments;
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards;
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas;
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside;



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- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places;
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results on <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>.

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>