

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we start the Spring term, the Government has announced new guidance in England to help reduce the transmission of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Face Coverings (Secondary students only)

The Government now strongly encourages students to wear face coverings in classrooms and teaching spaces, as well as in communal areas, unless they are exempt. The Government will be reviewing this guidance on 26th January 2022, and we will update you in due course. Students will be provided a face mask every day when onsite.

Self-isolation period reduced to seven days

Staff or students who have tested positive for COVID-19 may be able to end their isolation period after 7 days instead of 10, if they test negative on two consecutive lateral flow tests 24 hours apart, taken from day 6 of their isolation period onwards. We will contact you with more information if you inform us that your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

Close contacts and daily testing

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they are advised to take a rapid lateral flow test every day for seven days, or until ten days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. We can provide lateral flow tests to you, if you have completed our consent form. You can also obtain Lateral flow test kits from Pharmacies or from GOV.UK should you need them.

Children under the age of five should not do a daily test or self-isolate and should continue their on-site learning unless they receive a positive PCR test result or begin to display symptoms.

COVID-19 Vaccine

The government is encouraging everyone aged 12 and over to get a 1st and 2nd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, to offer them the best protection against COVID-19. More information on the importance of getting a vaccine or a booster is available on the NHS website.

Covid 19 Symptoms

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

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 COVID-19 from spreading

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

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- 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

These measures will help keep as many students in schools receiving face-to-face education as possible.

We will continue to maintain rigorous cleaning and hygiene levels at school and do everything we can to keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at info@arkkingsacademy.org

Yours sincerely



Roger Punton
Principal