



10/01/2022

Re: Covid Measures – To be reintroduced on Tuesday 11th Jan 2022

Pye Green Primary Academy
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Headteacher E. Ingram

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable, relaxing weekend and our children are ready for our first full week back at school.

Whilst we all hoped that by now the pandemic would be behind us, unfortunately this is not currently the case. Whilst it appears that illnesses related to the Omicron variant are milder than previous strains, it is extremely contagious and levels of infection across the country and particularly in our local community are high.

At Pye Green, we are striving to keep life for the children as normal as possible and for any adaptations to have a minimal impact on pupils' learning and school life. However, it is clear that this is going to be particularly hard to achieve over the next few weeks with the risks of children or staff becoming infected and having to isolate being higher than they were before the holiday.

As you are aware, many essential services and businesses are under enormous pressure due to staff absences. We anticipate that over the next few weeks, provision in our school will also be affected. In addition, on Thursday 6th January, Staffordshire declared a 'Major Incident' due to the impact of the Coronavirus in the area.

Therefore, schools across our multi academy trust have decided to take preventative measures to mitigate, as much as we possibly can, the need to close classes, year groups or alter provision due to staff shortages.

We have decided to reintroduce some reasonable risk assessment measures in the hope that this might help to suppress the spread of the Omicron infection, keep our children learning and our school fully open.

The following measures will be introduced on **Tuesday 11th January 2022** and will be reviewed at February half term, when hopefully we can return to a more normal approach. I really hope that this will be the case.

In the meantime, we will continue to work closely with our Local Outbreak Team and take advice and guidance from them if positive cases begin to increase within classes or year groups.

I would like to reassure you that stopping face to face learning for any pupil will only be made on the recommendations and guidance of the local Public Health team and as a **very last option**.

We will continue to be focused on navigating the challenges in front of us and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff remain central to our decisions.

Please ensure you are familiar with the revised routines and health & safety measures below.

Thank you all for your on-going and continued support.

Yours Sincerely

E. Ingram Headteacher

Key Changes

- Updated Information and Communication to Parents

Communication to parents will continue to be by email. There will be no paper correspondence. It is important that we have your correct email address and telephone number, so we can communicate important updates to you. Please update the school office by emailing enquiries@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk if your contact details have changed.

- Ventilation in Classrooms and Around School.

Classrooms will be well ventilated throughout the day. Children are permitted to wear a fleece or a coat over their school jumper as long as this is comfortable to wear in the classroom. This should not be a tracksuit top to replace their school jumper. Other uniform remains the same.

- Hygiene & Cleaning

Continued cleaning and good hygiene hand washing protocols will remain in place. We will have a cautionary approach "Catch It, Bin It, Kill It" and sanitizer will be widely available/used. Cleaning will continue to be more regular and enhanced and will include deep cleaning if there are a high number of positive cases within school.

- Year Group Bubbles

Year group bubbles will be reinstated for all activities inside school. This could be amended to class bubbles if advised by the local public health team, due to rising positive cases.

- Arriving at & Leaving School - Staggered Starts & Endings

We will return to the staggered starts & endings for year groups from Tuesday 11th January 2022. ***We would appeal to parents to wear a mask whilst on school premises.*** Start and finish times for year groups are as follows;

	Start	Finish
NURSERY Morning	8.45am	11.45am
NURSERY Afternoon	12.30pm	3.30pm
RECEPTION	Arrive at 8:45am	3.00pm
YEAR 1	Arrive at 8.45am	3.00pm
YEAR 2	Arrive at 8.55am	3.10pm
YEAR 3	Arrive at 8.55am	3.15pm
YEAR 4	Arrive 9.00am	3.20pm
YEAR 5	Arrive 9.00am	3.20pm
YEAR 6	Arrive at 9:10am	3.30pm

(Drop off and Collect from usual door/location)

- School Lunches – children will not be eating in the hall with any other year group

- Nursery children will have their lunch within the Nursery classroom and will not go over to the main building.
- Reception children will continue to go to the main school hall to eat between 11.55am-12.25pm.
- Year 1 children will continue to go to the main school hall to eat between 12.30-12.55pm.
- Children in Years 2-6 will eat within their own classrooms. Children having a hot meal will have an allocated time to go to the hall to collect their meal to then take back to their classroom.

- Breaktimes and Lunchtimes – Outdoor Play

Children will remain in 'Year Group' bubbles for all outside break times. This could be amended to class bubbles if advised by the local public health team, due to rising positive cases.

- PE Kits

Children can continue to wear their PE Kit to come to school on their PE day. This must be sensible sportswear. Other casual clothing will not be permitted. Our Uniform Policy states that red, green, yellow, blue house colour T shirt and dark/white shorts are permitted. There is flexibility around the tracksuit but it must be sensible and football shirts cannot be worn.

- **Swimming Trips**

Children will continue to go swimming unless advised by the provider or the local public health team that we are not to do so, due to rising positive case numbers and the risk of infecting others. Year 6 pupils currently go swimming on a Friday until February half term.

- **Before and After School Club Before**

Before and After School Club is an important provision for working parents and will continue to be provided daily. However, if we experience staff shortages that compromise the statutory ratios and requirements, then we will close the provision temporarily. In the event of us having to close the provision, you will be notified by the school office. If you currently use our before and after school provision you may wish to make alternative childcare plans that you can utilise if we do need to close at short notice. Pupils attending before & after school club will remain in year group bubbles until further notice.

- **After School Sports Club**

Dodgeball club will take place on a Thursday afterschool. This is restricted to Y6 pupils only.

- **Visitors in School**

For the moment, we will not be inviting parents/carers into school for assemblies and workshops and I would ask that you contact teaching staff via the office telephone or email, rather than coming into school in person. If you do wish to speak to a member of staff who is supervising the door at the beginning and end of the day, then you should wear a face covering to protect both them and yourselves.

Please try to leave the site as quickly as possible in the mornings and afternoons and not allow children to mix on the play equipment and playgrounds.

Visits from professionals will continue but all visitors will be required to evidence a negative Lateral Flow Test and complete a compliance/contact form before entering.

Please see our updated Full Risk Assessment on our school website

<https://www.pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk/school-information/covid-19>

Those who test positive on a LTF are still required to self-isolate. The measures above are to ensure that we can keep cases to a minimum and reduce transmission amongst our school community to keep as many pupils and staff in school as we possibly can.

Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the three Covid symptoms.