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Headteacher: E.Ingram

Tuesday 4th January, 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Pye Green Academy re-opening tomorrow, Wednesday 5th January 2022

Happy new year! I hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable and restful time over the Christmas holiday.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow (Wednesday 5th January 2022) when we re-open for all year groups.

You will be aware that the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be extremely challenging for the whole country. The Omicron variant is extremely contagious and levels of infection both across the country and in our local community are high.

All staff at Pye Green are committed to maintaining high quality face to face education for all the children; 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 higher than they were before the holiday. We will continue with the robust safety measures we already have in place including :-

- Class bubbles could be reinstated when and where necessary following advice from the Local Outbreak Team.
- Children will return to eating meals in the dining hall, unless cases begin to rise.
- Children will mix in restricted year group bubbles during break and lunch times. This will be reviewed as we assess rising cases.
- At this point in time, there will be no staggered start or finish times for any year group.

I am writing to ask you, our community, to support us in our efforts to keep the risk of infection as low as possible so that, hopefully, we can avoid having to send classes or year groups home.

There are vital ways in which you can play your part to keep our schools fully operational and as safe as possible for everyone:

- If your child has any COVID symptoms, or you have any reason to think they may be COVID positive, please **do not** send them into school. In these circumstances book a PCR test for them and follow the government self-isolation guidelines;
- Help us to have the safest possible return by using a lateral flow test to test your child **this evening or tomorrow morning** so that you know they are negative before they return tomorrow;
- Be aware that if you send your child to school with COVID symptoms you are putting the whole community at risk of infection and this could lead to classes or year groups having to be sent home, which we all want to avoid;
- All our staff will wear masks at the start and end of the day on the playground, we hope that parents and carers will support us by doing the same to keep the community safe;
- Any adult speaking face to face with a member of staff, must wear a mask;
- Any parent/carers entering the school building is required to wear a mask – this includes in the entrance foyers.
- Any visitors into school will need to provide proof of a negative lateral flow test.

An updated risk assessment has been added to the school website and can be found by following the link

<https://www.pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Full%20Risk%20Assessment%20January%202022.pdf> and is also attached to this email for your convenience.

Throughout the pandemic, we have endeavoured to keep the disruption to pupil's education as low as possible. Your help and support has been a significant factor in the success we have had in doing this. Thank you for continuing to play your crucial part as we start the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely,

Ms E. Ingram