

School closes for half term on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>  
February and opens on Monday 28<sup>th</sup>  
February. School Closes on Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
April and opens on 25<sup>th</sup> April

**Sandal Castle (VA) Community  
Primary School**

**Public Health Newsletter**



Spring Term

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy new year!! I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas break.

Yesterday afternoon, schools received information about the current COVID-19 situation, and refreshed local advice from Public Health which I would like to share with you.

### Current situation

Unfortunately, the arrival of the Omicron variant has led to incredibly high case rates nationally, which have reached Wakefield over the Christmas holidays. The current case rate is around 1,000/100,000 – 1 in 100 people in the Wakefield District is testing positive for COVID-19. It is anticipated that these numbers will rise over the coming weeks.

### Refreshed advice to schools, January 2022:

If a relative or household member has tested positive for COVID-19 on LFD or PCR, the advice is that children stay at home for 5 days if possible (any length of time is better than none). If possible, they should take daily lateral flow tests as per Government advice. If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away and continue to stay at home. If they have no symptoms after 5 days and daily lateral flow tests are negative, they can return to school.

Parents/carers who still want their child to continue to attend school have the right for them to do so. All children attending school who are a close contact or household contact with someone who has tested positive are strongly advised to take daily lateral flow tests for 7 days, as per national guidance.

If your child tests positive for COVID they are required to self-isolate. They should isolate for 10 days, however, they can stop self-isolating and return to school on day 8 if they take a lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period and:

- both tests are negative
- both tests were taken at least 24 hours apart
- they do not have a high temperature

Children who have not tested, or who are still testing positive at this stage, must complete 10 days' isolation.

In line with advice, as we have since our return to school in September, we will continue to maximise ventilation in school and continue to reduce mixing between year groups and classes as much as possible to reduce the risk of cases in one class spreading throughout the school.

We will also continue to suspend whole-school and year group events and limit visitors to the school considering whether events that bring parents into the school can be managed safely or should return to online.

Although we value educational trips and residential visits, advice reiterates that being on transport together for long periods, and/or sharing overnight accommodation, increases the risk of 'super spreading' due to the very high transmissibility of Omicron. Visits and residentials will therefore remain paused until further notice.

We thank you for your support and understanding

N Russell

Headteacher

