

Update on Covid-19 precautions

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing to today to give an update on the Covid-19 precautions we are taking at the academy, following guidance provided from Oasis Community Learning.

As you may know, the Government has introduced some new Covid rules in response to the 'Omicron' variant. You can [read more about this here](#) or by searching for 'Omicron Covid rules UK.'

The new rules include:

- Adults and older children are required to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport
- School staff and secondary students are required to wear face coverings in busy areas of school
- If it is suspected you have the Omicron variant of Covid-19, you will be required to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have a vaccine
- Anyone arriving in the UK from abroad will require a PCR test within 48 hours and will need to self-isolate until they have a result
- People travelling from 'red-list' countries will be required to quarantine for two weeks in a hotel on arriving in the UK.

What does this mean for the academy?

The first thing to say is that it remains safe to come to school. We have lots of precautions in place which are designed to reduce the risk for everyone, and to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within our community. We will be using this announcement as a good moment to check again the precautions we have in place. We will be following the government's guidance, so you will see all staff now wearing face coverings in communal areas of the school (although please note some may be exempt). Those staff that consent will also be taking two tests a week at home to check for Covid.

Please note, it is still not advised that primary pupils wear a face covering, and they are not required to take regular tests (only if they show symptoms).

We will also be reminding everyone about the importance of following the basic rules of good hygiene:

- Washing your hands
- Cleaning your surroundings
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

We are currently reviewing all the events we have planned within the Academy in the build-up to Christmas, and we will provide an update shortly.



Principal – Mrs Jo Poplett

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Over the holidays

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Christmas holiday, and for many families this is a time to travel to see friends and family.

To help reduce the spread of Covid-19, please note that:

- Face coverings are now required for all adults and older children when visiting shops and on public transport.
- Should you or your child develop symptoms of Covid-19, [please request a PCR test as soon as possible](#). If it is suspected that you have the Omicron variant, NHS Test and Trace will ask you to self-isolate for 10 days even if you have had the vaccine.
- If you are planning on travelling abroad, please note that the rules have now changed and that if you enter the UK from a foreign country, you have two days to take a PCR test. While you are waiting for a result, you must self-isolate, whether you have been vaccinated or not.
- In response to the new variant, new countries have been added to the red-list. Please check the latest [‘Red-list’ country](#) list to see if this will impact on your plans.
- Vaccination, and in some instances vaccination boosters, are now available for all adults and children over 12 who consent. Please consider whether you would like to be vaccinated if you have not been, as this will help to reduce the risk for everyone.

Returning to school in January

We do not currently know what the situation will be in January, but we will continue to keep you updated on any changes.

The most important thing to remember is to check that your child is well and has no symptoms of Covid-19 before returning to school.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please contact the school office by email to byron@oasisbyron.org

Thank you as always for your understanding and support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Principal

