



## Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

The Street, Gooderstone, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 9BP

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Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. As we are all aware, school matters are likely to be challenging over the course of this half-term; the new variant Omicron appears to be highly transmissible and case numbers both nationally and locally are high. We continue to watch the guidance carefully and update our risk assessments and contingency plans daily (this is the third attempt at writing this letter today due to the changes around testing).

### **Arrangements for school.**

The arrangements from last half term still apply moving forward until the guidance dictates otherwise. We ask that only one adult per family attends pick up and drop off and that you also continue to wear masks and distance on the playground. Staff will continue to wear masks in the corridors and communal areas. We will also continue to limit the number of visitors into the school for the first few weeks and review this with the ever changing guidance. We have a number of CO2 monitors in the building that monitor the air quality/ventilation across the classrooms, when the level of CO2 is high we add extra ventilation (opening more window and doors). It is therefore really important that your child comes to school with lots of layers to keep them, we will of course try to balance comfort with safety wherever possible.

### **Testing.**

At the current time of writing this letter, under the new guidance individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7. When testing to release from isolation early you do not need to apply the 'full day rule' that applies to isolation itself. Therefore, if you have 2 negative tests you can be released immediately after the second test as long as the tests are taken 24 hours apart. Meaning if it is taken at 8am for example, you could go to the setting on that day. Below is the link to the latest government guidance for your ease of reference:



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges#main-messages>

The situation regarding PCR tests and Lateral Flow tests is obviously moving quickly at the moment, but essentially, if your child has symptoms then please keep your child off school and do a lateral flow test.

Covid symptoms can be high temperature, new, continuous cough and or loss of/change to sense of taste or smell, or seem to be with the Omicron variant, headache, sore throat and runny nose. Please follow the self-isolation guidance above and do not bring your child into school if they test positive, and continue to let us know as you have been so excellent in doing.

### **Online learning.**

The high cases locally and nationally may well result in serious staff shortages for us and if we do not have enough staff to safely remain open, then we may have to consider remote learning for all or some children as a last resort. This is only likely to happen if mixing or combining of classes is not possible in terms of pupil numbers and staff numbers. However, we want to reassure you that our priority is to remain open and we will do all we can to ensure this. We would want any remote learning to be for a short time and only until we could access supply staff. This has proved extremely difficult last term and we envisage this continuing.

For those children isolating due to having COVID but are well enough to do work at home we will happily provide work on Google classroom. Please liaise with your child's class teacher to arrange this.

I am sure that the current situation will be making many of you anxious but please know that we are working hard to minimise the disruption to your child's education due to this virus and are, as always, following both Government and Public Health guidelines very closely. I would also ask that you ensure you're treating all of our members of staff with kindness and respect as they continue to do all they can to provide your child with fantastic and exciting learning experiences in an incredibly difficult set of circumstances.

Thank you for all your support,

Mrs Godbold