

### UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Dear Parents and Carers** 

## **COVID-19 Update and Precautions**

At Uplands Manor, we are continuing to do all we can to keep our staff, children and families as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our measures include:

- ✓ All staff, parents, volunteers and visitors wearing face masks whenever in communal areas around school
- ✓ Not having any large gatherings on site: virtual staff meetings and assemblies, year group and not phase assemblies etc
- ✓ Continuing to ensure all rooms are as well ventilated as possible and also using carbon dioxide monitors to identify any areas where ventilation needs to be improved
- ✓ Encouraging everyone to follow good hygiene procedures (catch it, bin it, kill it) and sanitise their hands throughout the day
- ✓ Informing parents whenever there are positive cases in school so that precautionary measures can be taken

#### **Omicron Variant**

The new omicron variant has recently caused a surge in cases and the government has already started introducing new measures (Plan B) to try and stop it spreading as there is growing concern about how transmissible it is and uncertainty about its ability to re-infect people and evade vaccines. As case numbers continue to rise and the pressure on the NHS increases, I want to make sure that we are prepared for all possible situations when we return in January and are keeping each other as safe as possible

### What to do before returning to school in January

- Please make sure your child takes a lateral flow test to check if they are infected but asymptomatic so that they are not bringing the virus into school
- Keep your child off school and book them a PCR test if they have any COVID symptoms
- ➢ If they have been in contact with a positive case, ensure they book a precautionary PCR test and then take a lateral flow test every day for the next 7 days as per new government procedures launched today

### Important procedures to follow next term

- > Please make sure that your child is taking regular lateral flow tests every week
- ➤ If they are symptomatic, make sure they isolate and book a PCR test make sure you inform school that this is what you are doing. A lateral flow test should not be taken if your child has COVID symptoms; it must be a PCR test.
- Continue to book precautionary PCR tests if you are informed that your child is a contact of a confirmed positive case in school
- ➤ If your child is off school isolating but is not unwell, it is really important that they access remote learning tasks set for them every day on our website:

  <a href="https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Category/work-for-children-not-in-school">https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Category/work-for-children-not-in-school</a>

# What will happen if the government closes schools next term (my understanding is that this will only be done as a last resort but I want to be proactive and be prepared in case an emergency situation is reached)

If this happens, we will once again only stay open to the children of critical workers and those classed as vulnerable (i.e. children with an EHCP, are in the care of the local authority or who have a social worker). All other children will be expected to continue their learning online:

- Ensure your child fully engages with remote learning tasks every day on Google Classroom (login details are being sent home again this week so that you have them and children are being reminded how to log in and access and submit work)
  - ✓ We will follow the same routine and systems as before lots of information about this can be found on our website at <a href="https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/page/detail/remote-learning">https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/page/detail/remote-learning</a>. This includes an overview of our provision and parent guides and help sheets.
  - ✓ We will be re-distributing laptops this week to families that requested them during the January lockdown.
  - ✓ Teachers will continue to make contact with children by phone each week. They will continue to be contactable at their year group email addresses, e.g. <a href="mailto:year2@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk">year2@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk</a>
  - ✓ Free school meal vouchers will be issued to all children entitled to benefits-related free school meals

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we try to safely navigate the pandemic and work hard to help all of our children achieve their very best in all that they do.

Yours faithfully

A Dickinson Head Teacher

Achievement









