



## Federation of Pinvin C of E First School and St Nicholas C of E Middle School

Main Street, Pinvin, Worcestershire WR10 2ER

**Federation Head teacher: Mrs Sandra Jennings**

**Deputy Headteachers : Mr James Hawthorn and Mrs Charlotte Goss**

*Together, we inspire, discover and achieve*

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, can we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a peaceful and joyful Christmas break.

We are writing to ensure that everyone is clear about the return to school arrangements in light of current Covid restrictions and measures. Please see latest government advice and requirements for our children below.

Children in all year groups are expected to be due back in school on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. In order to reduce the risk of transmission following the holidays, we strongly encourage you to use Lateral flow tests before sending your children back on Wednesday and regularly twice weekly thereafter. Year 7 children for whom we have consent will be tested on their return and these will be registered. After this they should self - test at home twice weekly and results registered. If your child is unwell you should keep them at home and take a test. The main difference for the Omicron variant is that it is often presenting itself as a cold and children may not have the regular Covid symptoms.

### **Government advice – 02/01/21**

Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

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The Pinvin Federation of Schools is part of The Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with registered number 10390487. Its registered office is at The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR1 2JE.



Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. 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 they / you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

### **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. This applies to staff also.

### **Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings**

From today, Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. We are updating our guidance to reflect this. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Please read the remainder of this letter very carefully regarding Pinvin Federation arrangements.

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## Pinvin Federation arrangements for January 2022.

1. Children will continue to remain in Year Group bubbles and not mix indoors.
2. **Children in Year 7 and all staff** will be required to wear face masks **until 26<sup>th</sup> January** in the first instance both in the classroom and in communal areas. Face masks do not need to be worn outside. Children in other year groups can wear face masks in the classroom if that is their preferred choice.
3. Lunches will continue to be served in classrooms
4. Wraparound care will operate on our return, however please be aware that this may need to be reviewed if cases arise and numbers are high.
5. If you are able to avoid school transport – it is safer to do so. (We understand that many of you have no choice)
6. Assemblies will be virtual and in classes.
7. Parents are required to wear face masks when picking children up / dropping children off children on site and parents are asked to be prompt and swift.
8. Visitors on site will be limited and only by prior arrangement.
9. There will be no after school clubs other than wraparound care.
10. Staff will continue to ensure rooms are well ventilated
11. All staff and children will continue to promote basic hygiene and handwashing to help stop spread.

Our ultimate aim is to keep school open and not be forced to close classes / bubbles / wraparound care, however, we can only do this with your support and if we have enough staff. Please follow the government advice, don't send your child to school if they are unwell and keep testing your children. If numbers of positive cases increase we will need to review the situation and make the necessary changes. In the case of bubble closures, remote learning will be initiated. Please contact the office immediately if your child tests positive so that we can monitor numbers accurately. Stay safe and healthy!

Kind regards

Mrs Jennings, Mr Hawthorn and Mrs Goss.

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