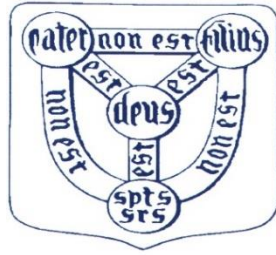


# Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Autumn Term Two – COVID-19 Update for Parents

Dear Parents,

We are aware of and very much empathise with increasing levels of anxiety amongst the whole school community as the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is spreading so rapidly across the country. This is without a doubt a difficult time for all of us, especially as we approach Christmas.

There have been cases of COVID-19 within the school during this half term, and there are pupils currently isolating at home with Coronavirus. We understand that there are concerns about the school not informing parents directly about these cases, but schools are required to work to the regulations from the Department for Education (DfE) and the latest Schools COVID-19 [operational guidance](#) states:

'Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.'

The advice for these contacts is:

'From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.'

The DfE has produced a document specifically for parents that you might find helpful: [what parents need to know about schools](#)

This document states that the school will receive advice from Public Health England (PHE) if numbers substantially increase:

'If the number of positive cases substantially increases in your nursery, school, or if your nursery, school, or college is in an enhanced response area, you might be advised that additional measures should be introduced'.

No such advice has been received by the school as yet. If and when this advice is received, we will act immediately and inform parents. In the meantime, we are maintaining good ventilation, rigorous cleaning and ensuring personal hygiene through thorough hand washing.

We do understand how difficult the current situation is becoming for everyone. The school is receiving daily alerts and updates from the Department of Education (DfE), Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Public Health England (PHE), and we are constantly monitoring the changing circumstances.

With very best wishes,

Judith R Terrell  
Headteacher

Anna Marlow  
Chair of Governors

Helen Wilson  
Vice Chair of Governor