Dear Parents/Carers,

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while we gather more information. We will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

**Face coverings**

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public transport and dedicated school transport (school minibus) unless they are exempt.

**Testing**

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

**Contact tracing and isolation**

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

**Vaccination**

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

**Good hygiene**

Across all settings, people should continue to follow the basic rules of good hygiene. This will help to protect individuals and others from COVID-19. These are:

* washing your hands.
* cleaning your surroundings.
* covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

As you are aware we have been implementing many of the above measures in school already. Please encourage your child to bring their own mask, if they forget we can provide them with a mask.

More information on our guidance for educational and childcare settings is available on gov.uk: Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Any issues, queries or concerns please contact the school on 01642 566369

Yours faithfully,

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E. Carr & R. Campbell Co-Headteachers

Bishopton PRU