



21-22-197

4 January 2022

TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

Start of New Term – January 2022 Update

I write at the start of 2022 to wish you all a Happy New Year and to provide a very brief update regarding the beginning of a new school term.

Covid Testing – On site and at home

Thank you to you all for providing consent to test pupils on site in our Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS) this forthcoming week and therefore for your patience with the staggered start/return to school. As per Government guidance, pupils will return to the classroom once we have completed a test in school in order to provide another layer of risk reduction as part of our continued pandemic response. We actively encourage you as a family to continue with twice weekly testing, in line with current Government guidance and will as a school, continue to distribute the tests provided to us for your use. Ms Matthews letter sent on Monday 03 January communicated all details regarding testing with you including changes to the 'within 90-day positive result' guidance and LFD testing to release from isolation (please click on link for full letter [Covid Testing 220103](#)). The guidance continues to be to home test daily if you are identified as a close contact.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Masks

You will be aware that pupils are required to wear masks in all areas of the school when they return. Please make sure that they have a number of masks available to them in order to ensure they are able to wear one inside at all times. All pupils are required to be outside at break and lunch time where they will be able to remove their mask. We hold a central record, following communication from parents/carers of those very few pupils who have a specific reason for exemption.

Ventilation

We continue to have doors and windows open to provide as much ventilation as is possible. This means that the building and classrooms may be cold depending on the weather conditions outside. Please make sure that your child is dressed in full school uniform/PE kit (only on the days that they are timetabled to have PE) taking advantage of the opportunity to wear a school PE fleece or plain navy blue round neck sweatshirt to ensure they are warm. I talk to pupils often about the need to wear a coat to and from school and also outside at break and lunch time.

Staffing / Remote Learning / Combining Classes

Whilst we are able to safely remain fully open we will continue to do so. Where increased staff absence compromises the health and safety of pupils and staff, we may, as before Christmas, make the decision for a year group or groups to learn from home. We will only do this should we not be able to safely provide face-to-face provision in school. Notice for this may be short due to the fluid nature of staff absence. We will always aim to give as much notice as is possible and we thank you in anticipation of your continued flexibility, patience and understanding. We may or may not be able to provide live learning as our remote provision depending on staffing levels and reasons for absence. If staff are unwell, they will be unable to teach in school or offer a live lesson remotely. Decisions will continue to be made and communicated with honesty and transparency. If class numbers are low due to pupil absence we may consider combining classes depending on the subject, year group and topic content. We will duly consider, depending on the specific context, whether this is the most prudent solution in light of our focus on risk reduction.

At the start of a new year and a new term, we are full of hope, positivity and optimism at Cams Hill School and look forward to welcoming back our pupils to their classrooms this week. Wishing all our families a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Harrison-Jones
Headteacher