



# St Andrew's C of E Primary School

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**'Growing and learning together with God'**

[www.standrewscofeprimary.co.uk](http://www.standrewscofeprimary.co.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs N Dallibar BA (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Head Teacher: Miss A Lawrence BSc (Hons)



4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## January Guidance

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the start of the Spring Term. It was lovely to see so many happy parents and children this morning during drop off. Thank you to everyone who followed school guidance for dropping off and/or reporting absences.

You will all no doubt be aware that the latest Covid variant, Omicron, is spreading rapidly within the UK and the government are keeping a very close eye on the data. They have openly said many times that they do not want to close schools and that a return to off-site, remote learning will only happen as a last resort.

The guidance for the devolved nations is different at this time, and there is a lot of information to try to wade through. Therefore I thought it would be helpful to summarise a few key points below. Please bear in mind that these are based on the government guidance at the time of writing, and also in line with our own individual school risk assessments. Should there be any further changes, I will update you as soon as possible.

- School is open to all pupils as normal at this time. Breakfast and After School care is available as before by booking in advance via ParentPay or via Get Active
- Only Nursery and Reception parents should enter the school car park at drop off. This is to minimise the number of people on site and to allow staff to work with the children in the classrooms
- All parents should follow the one-way system at pick-up, and only 1 adult per household should come on site to collect
- Parents should use Class Dojo to send messages to the class teachers about anything and everything related to classroom routines, activities, the curriculum and resources. Please avoid speaking to the teachers face to face at pick up and drop off in order to allow them to supervise the children as needed
- All absences (for any reason) should be communicated to the school office, preferably via email on [absence@standrewsuxbridge.org.uk](mailto:absence@standrewsuxbridge.org.uk), or by calling the school number between 8:15am and 4pm Monday to Friday
- The rules around Covid isolation have changed, so that an individual who tests positive with a PCR may be able to end their self-isolation early if they receive negative lateral flow test results on days 6 and 7 of their isolation period
- Our enhanced Risk Assessment states that if a family member tests positive on either a lateral flow or PCR, then the rest of the household must take a PCR test and isolate until the result of this is known. Please note that this is in contrast to the latest government guidance, and is to protect our small workforce from the further spread of the virus. If the PCR tests of the close contacts come back negative, then they may be able to attend school, provided that you have someone who can bring them in and collect them. They should continue to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days, and will then need to isolate if one of these comes back positive or if they show any symptoms of Covid. Absences while waiting for a PCR test or due to a household case will be authorised.
- The rules for returning to the UK from abroad are complex and involve taking a PCR test within 2 days of entering the UK. You must isolate in your house until you have the results, and then if the tests are negative, the children can return to school. Please note that unless in very exceptional circumstances, these absences will be recorded as unauthorised, as this additional guidance should have been included in any holiday plans you have made.

- Here is a link to the most up to date government guidance which parents should familiarise themselves with for now <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges#contents>

Thank you for your continued support with the ever-changing situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Although there are no specific changes within school that have been recommended by government guidance, staff are continuing to work hard to keep the children as safe as possible. All classrooms and spaces are well-ventilated, with enhanced cleaning measures and regular hand washing and sanitising. Staff are continuing to test regularly with lateral flow tests, and after a well-deserved break, everyone is keen to continue learning together.

Please make sure that you take the time to read the weekly newsletters, and any other updates and posts on Dojo and ParentPay, which are the main platforms for communication at this time. Where it is safe to do so, please do speak to me or Miss Lawrence in the car park before or after school, or pop into the main office to speak to Mrs Meredith or Miss Shoy. We are not insisting on the wearing of face coverings at this time, but are more than happy for parents to wear them as desired.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dallibar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs N Dallibar  
Head Teacher