

Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Early Years Centre

Address: Wimperis Way, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7DH

Telephone: 0121 3666183

School Email: postbox@pheasey.org.uk

Early Years Centre Email: early-years@pheasey.org.uk

Website: www.pheaseyparkfarmprimary.co.uk / www.elstonhallmat.co.uk

Head of School: Mrs S Arnold

Early Years Centre Managers: Miss T Ilsley and Mrs L Smith



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Primary School &
Early Years Centre

Tuesday, 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and Reminder of Covid Procedures

We hope that all our families have had a happy and healthy Christmas break and we wish you all a very happy New Year. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school tomorrow.

You will have seen in the media over the past few weeks that there has been a surge of positive Covid cases due to the dominance of the Omicron variant. Whilst there have been changes for Secondary age pupils such as testing in schools and the wearing of face masks, the Government have not made any changes to procedures for Primary Schools.

We have reviewed our Risk Assessment and will continue with measures we currently have in place.

Mixing of children

Whilst there is such a high number of cases both nationally and locally, we will continue reducing the amount of 'mixing' of our children. They will remain in classes for all lessons but will be able to mix within their year group on the playground where they are in the fresh air.

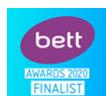
Tracing close contacts and isolation

Schools are not required to do contact tracing. Contacts are identified via NHS Test and Trace who will work with a parent to identify close contacts.

School will let parents know if there are a number of positive cases within their child's particular class or year group. Where this is the case, we will take advice from Public Health and let parents know of any further measures that need to be put in place, either at home or in school

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, where any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- **they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months**
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons



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However - anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take a rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people.

Children can still come to school whilst they are awaiting results unless they show signs of the virus - high temperature, persistent cough and/or loss of normal taste or smell.

The omicron variant also has symptoms of sore (scratchy) throat, headache that persists and aching limbs. Parents may be advised to seek a PCR if their child has any of these wider symptoms.

Where a child has tested positive, they can return to school once they have 2 successive negative lateral flow tests which can be done from day 6 and day 7. If these remain positive, children must remain off school for the full 10 days after which time they can return.

As with any illness, please contact school to register your child's absence and update school throughout the isolation period. If you do not contact us, you will receive a call or visit from our Attendance Office as part of our safeguarding procedures.

Face coverings

Our staff will continue to wear face coverings during arrival and dismissal times, as well as in communal areas and we advise parents to do the same.

Control Measures

We will continue to implement the following measures to keep the children and our staff safe:

- Maintain good hygiene for everyone - regular hand washing and sanitiser will continue to be used
- Our cleaning regimes will be maintained
- Occupied spaces will be kept well ventilated - regular opening of windows
- Staff will regularly take lateral flow tests
- Virtual assemblies/meetings where possible



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- We will follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Please note - if there were to be a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school, we will work alongside our public health colleagues who may advise us to temporarily reintroduce some of our original control measures.

One Way system - reminder

We do not have a full one-way system in place, however, below is a reminder of our procedures:

- **Raeburn Road** - parents and children will be able to enter AND exit our site via the Raeburn Road gates. These are the widest gates/pathways on the site and will allow parents the safest way to pass one another.
- **Wimperis Way** - this will remain an exit only and therefore parents will not be permitted to enter the site through those gates at arrival and dismissal times. The pedestrian path at Wimperis Way is narrow and we want to avoid bottlenecks and people having to pass on the pathway.

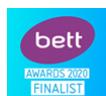
We continue to require parents to wait on playgrounds to avoid congestion, particularly outside KS2 classrooms, KS2 Foyer and the Community Room. *This is for your safety and the safety of other parents and carers.*

Arrival and dismissal reminder

To ease the flow and volume of people on our site, we currently have different dismissal times for KS1 and KS2.

In the morning

Doors will be open for all children between 8:40am and 9:00am. As soon as children arrive on site they should go straight into classrooms/entrances rather than congregate. This has worked well over the last year and will therefore continue.



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At home time

To alleviate congestion on site, dismissal times remain as follows:

- Reception **3:10pm**
- KS1 **3:15pm**
- Years 3 / 4 **3:20pm**
- Years 5 / 6 **3:25pm**
- PM Nursery **3:30pm**

All children will need to be collected by an adult (16 years and over) unless they are in Year 5 and 6 and have consent to leave school alone. We must remind parents that if children do leave school alone, they are expected to behave to the standard we expect in school and must be respectful to all others, including local residents. This privilege will be revoked if behaviour in the Community is considered inappropriate.

We will continue to ask parents to contact school by telephone or emailing postbox rather than coming into the building, wherever possible. If you do have an appointment to come into school, we are asking all visitors to wear a face covering.

All of our procedures will be continually reviewed and any further changes we need to make on health and safety grounds will be communicated to parents.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Arnold
Head Teacher

