



Layton Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Clucas

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Important Information – Update to Parents 04/01/22

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, a warm welcome back to the new school term; we are very much looking forward to seeing children back in school.

As you will be aware, there is a variant of COVID which is highly contagious which is leading to a rapid increase in cases. This is the Omicron variant, which is 3-4 times more transmissible than the Delta variant.

The biggest challenge for school is to maintain adequate staffing levels to cover classes and to ensure children receive high quality education. We are taking every precaution in school to reduce levels of infection, and will continue to follow public health advice to limit the spread. Staff continue to take Lateral Flow Tests regularly as they have throughout the pandemic, and we ask the whole community to support us by ensuring you test your child if they display **any cold or flu like symptoms**.

COVID Symptoms and Testing

If your child is suffering from any symptoms of COVID they must not come to school until they are symptom free, after having completed a Lateral Flow Test and are negative. If they test positive, you must arrange a PCR test and inform school via 01253 392179 during school hours or covid@layton.blackpool.sch.uk outside of school hours.

If anyone in the household tests positive, your child may still attend school, providing they take a LFT daily and are negative – they should not attend school if they have any symptoms of COVID.

Lateral Flow Tests can be collected from pharmacies, community testing sites, or ordered online using this link <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. To collect from a pharmacy you must gain a 'collect' code by visiting the NHS website or calling 119 (free from landlines and mobiles). Lines are open from 7am to 11pm.

Contingency Measures:

The Department for Education have stated that there may be a need to return to home learning, if there is inadequate cover for classes – we are planning for this potential circumstance and will do everything we can to ensure school operates as normal for every single child. Children have missed much schooling and we are extremely keen to ensure they lose no more. However, I do need to be realistic about the challenges this will pose, which may include combining classes.

However, we may face situations where we have to send classes or year groups home at short notice, given how transmissible the Omicron variant is. This would be because we have too few teachers available within school, or if staff shortages make it unsafe to open for all students.

Unfortunately, I cannot give our community a cast iron guarantee that we will remain open for all children over the next few weeks. We will however do everything we can to remain fully open and to keep our parents and community informed should things changed.





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We would recommend for your own protection that you wear a face covering on school site. This will help limit the spread of COVID-19; there are around 1,000 parents at pick up and drop off times- the school playground can be very crowded at the beginning and end of the day.

We will continue to work to our school risk assessment, which can be found on our website should you wish to view this. **Lastly, as we will be ensuring that all classrooms are well ventilated, your child may benefit from wearing extra layers under their school uniform to keep warm.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Clucas
Headteacher

