

4th January 2022

**Re: January 2022 Reopening of Plaistow**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful holiday and on behalf of everyone at Plaistow would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are officially now in 2022!

**We look forward to welcoming you all back to school tomorrow morning, the 5th January 2022.** As always, the gates will open at 8:45am.

Unfortunately, even though we are in a new year we are very much still having to live with and manage the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Although the science surrounding the Omicron variant may show that it is less severe, it is looking to be significantly more transmissible.

As always, we will continue to follow up to date government guidance for keeping our school community safe.

**The main symptoms of Covid-19 remain the same:**

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**Updated government guidelines for Covid-19 isolation periods:**

If you or your child have symptoms of Covid-19, you should book a PCR test and remain at home until you receive the results. If the result is positive, the infected individual will need to self-isolate for **7 days**. On day 6 and 7, a rapid lateral flow test should be taken. When **two consecutive negative results are confirmed** (24 hours apart) the isolation period can end.

Adults in the household of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 **do not need to self-isolate** if they have had two Covid-19 vaccinations. They should complete daily lateral flow tests for 7 days. If a test comes back positive, they should begin self-isolating and arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

**Children who are close contacts to those who test positive do not need to self-isolate. Children in the household of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 do not need to self-isolate and should**

**attend school as normal.** They should complete a daily lateral flow test for 7 days. If a test comes back positive, they should begin self-isolating and arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Our updated Covid-19 risk assessment and Outbreak Management Plan is available on our school website.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the updated government guidance please speak to myself or a member of the senior leadership team on the playground in the morning or at the end of the school day.

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow morning.

Best wishes,

Dean Benoit  
**Head Teacher**