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Richmond Park School,  
Carmarthen



5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Happy New Year to all our Parents, Carers and Pupils!

I hope that you all experienced an enjoyable and safe festive period and that you managed to avoid Covid. Starting back in 2022 has not been the calm start we would have wished for, but we aim to make January a safe and purposeful start for our children. The planning days – yesterday and today, have allowed us to take stock of the new risk mitigations we have to have in place as well as what staff are available to return to work. We have returned to the higher precautionary measures we had in place after the last lockdown, and I have detailed how you can help us with this below. I have placed our lengthy risk assessment on our website (under Letters) for those parents that have asked to see it. We have three staff off at present, but we have covered them so that there will be minimal disruption to classes running as usual. This could of course change at any point as Omicron gets a deeper hold within Carmarthenshire. We will keep you informed of things as they develop via our texting service. Please ensure the school office has your correct mobile number.

### **Please help us in keeping staff safe and school open and running as usual by doing the following:**

- Parents to wear a mask at drop off and pick up times (yes even outdoors) – this helps stop the community spread of covid, particularly between 17 to 39 year olds
- Only 1 parent should collect a child or children and once collected, parents and children should leave the premises and not hang around to speak socially to others.
- On collection, please keep your children with you and do not let them run around the playground.
- Please do not cross the barrier of chairs separating the playground – this is for the safety of all.
- It would help with safety if your child could wear a face covering whilst entering the premises. They will not be asked to wear a face covering during the day as they will be in class bubbles.
- No parents should come into the school building without a prior appointment or an emergency.
- **Do not send your child into school if they have the official Covid symptoms of a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell**



- **In addition, please do not send your child into school if they have the new symptoms associated with the Omicron variant (if in doubt give us a call):**
  - Scratchy throat
  - Sneezing
  - Runny nose/congestion
  - Headache
  - Lower back pain, Fatigue, Night sweats or Body aches
- If your child is identified as a close contact, follow the guidance given by the Test, Track and Protect team
- Do not allow your children to bring bags to school other than packed lunch boxes.
- If children want to bring a pencil case to school they may do so BUT they must leave the pencil case in school and not take it back and for between home and school.
- No water bottles to be brought in – there will be cups available to children during the day and we have individual water bottles on order for children. These will remain in school and be washed regularly to remain sanitised.
- Doors and windows will be open to aid ventilation so please dress your children with an additional vest or t-shirt underneath their polo top and school jumper.

**There is no After School Club or Breakfast Club until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**All children (unless in receipt of Free School Meals) will need a packed lunch for Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> & Fri 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

We are told that the peak of Omicron cases is likely to be towards the end of January, therefore I hope that you will accept that the staffing situation in school could be ever evolving. I assure you that all the measures above, I put in place to keep the school running for you and your children. With the help of all parents and carers, I believe I can keep school running without the need to close. If I do need to close, then I aim to give you as much time as possible to arrange child-care.

I am sure that there will be many things that crop up during the next few days that I will need to share with you so I will do so via our texting service – I apologise in advance to those parents who see the information sharing as an intrusion and inconvenience. Mr Cooper and Mrs Peters will also share remote learning guidance on Class DOJO should the need arise. Class teachers will also use Class DOJO for their messages.

Lastly, thank you for all the lovely messages of support that have been coming in. Your words are much appreciated. We are in this together and Team Richmond will do all it can to keep safe and keep open.

Kind regards, *Helen Luff* ~ Headteacher