



St Christopher's Prep

A Brighton College School

From the Head
Ms E Lyle BSc, QTS

TO ALL PARENTS

Return to School Lent 2022

31st December 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well and have had an enjoyable festive season.

As we turn our attention to the start of the Lent term, we are writing to provide you with an update of the various Covid protocols we will continue to adopt in our response to the rising case numbers nationally as a result of the new Omicron variant and to give you more information about the start of the term.

Our key control measures remain as follows:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone (including hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, use of PPE etc,)
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Looking initially at testing, clearly we are keen to start the term as safely as possible - we know that regular testing assists in identifying any individuals who may be asymptomatic. Whilst the Government has asked for schools to undertake one onsite test for pupils in Years 7 and above, we know that our school community has been hugely supportive of the regular testing regime, with over 90% of our pupils in Years 7 and 8 reporting regular test results.

Set against this, and to reduce the risk to staff and pupils, we would ask **all pupils in Years 7 and 8 to undertake a lateral flow test on the 4th January 2022**. This should be reported to the NHS in the usual way and to the school via the following link:

[Pupil Covid Test Result](#)

Notwithstanding government guidance, we would also like to strongly recommend and encourage all other pupils to also complete a lateral flow test on the 4th January 2022. Only positive results need to be reported to the school.

By the whole community taking this action, we hope that we can commence the Lent term as safely as possible.

Self-isolation rules have changed since the 14th December. Anyone testing positive for Covid (notwithstanding which variant) should self-isolate for 7 days. They should seek confirmation of their positive result through a PCR test and must complete a lateral flow test on Day 6 and Day 7 which must be negative for them to end the period of self-isolation. If someone is a close contact of a person who has tested positive then they are strongly recommended to undertake a daily LFT test for 7 days. If this provides a negative result then they can continue to attend school.

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Twice weekly LFT testing for pupils in Years 7 & 8 will continue for the time being on a Sunday and Wednesday - under this regime, the first test will be undertaken on Sunday, 9th January 2022. We also ask that **all** children conduct an optional LFT before returning to school this term. Any testing undertaken by the younger year groups will be beneficial in keeping the school community safe and we appreciate your support.

Inter-school sport fixtures will be returning this term, however parent spectators will not be able to attend until further notice due to the school's Covid Protocol so we can keep the school community as safe as possible. Please can all pupils involved in fixtures confirm a negative LFT result with the School Office on the evening before or morning of the fixture.

Government guidance states that attendance is mandatory at school unless a pupil is unwell, is awaiting a PCR test or has tested positive. This supports our key priority to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils in the school environment. Please be aware therefore that if you choose to keep your child at home and they are not unwell then this will be considered an unauthorised absence.

Start and end times will remain the same as for the Michaelmas term in order to ensure that we minimise the number of parents and pupils gathering in the playground at any one time.

For the first Wednesday of term, Reception will remain at Glebe. This will mean that pick-up will be at Glebe for the first week back; however, we hope to be able to return to the normal Wednesday visits to 'big school' from week 2 onwards. Children who are normally dropped off at the main site in the mornings may continue to do so.

Staff and pupils in Years 7 & 8 will continue to wear face coverings whilst walking around the school and in communal areas. Additionally, pupils travelling on school minibuses to and from school will wear face coverings.

After School Clubs will be going ahead this term and more details will follow on these before the start of term. My apologies that this information is coming out so close to the start of the term, the clubs were organised at the end of last term in good time but, as I am sure you understand, we have had to adapt to the increase in covid infections in our area. We understand how important it is that families have this information in good time to arrange their weekly childcare and drop off/pick up routines and we will always aim to get ASC information to you well before the start of a term whenever possible.

I will continue to keep you informed throughout the term and, as always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office. We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school next week. In the meantime, all of us at St Christopher's wish you a very Happy New Year.

Kind regards,



Ms E Lyle
Head