



Sunday, 28 November 2021

## Mask wearing in schools and other safety measures

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for contacting you on a Sunday evening. I have been contacted by the Department of Education today regarding Covid-19 safety measures. On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while the government gathers more information. The government has provided Toot Hill School with the following guidance:

### Face coverings

Face coverings should now be worn in all communal areas in all school settings by staff, visitors and students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Please can you ensure your child brings a face mask to school tomorrow.

Students in all year groups at Toot Hill School should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

### Assemblies

We will not be running any event inside school that is classed as a large gathering, such as school assemblies or whole school staff meetings.

### Testing

We strongly encourage our staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

### Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

### Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

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The government states that vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19; they help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. The government advises that vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS](#)

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhs.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7Chtaylor%40toothhillschool.co.uk%7C9f911b88e25a48c745e008d9b29d9db8%7Cf4ebe22eb55344f388563e0d84908eb8%7C0%7C0%7C637737234365104215%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6k1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=nexL9k6RxwJBdF2ohpXRDIFFFWsFDF3jDwkd%2BIVAg%3D&reserved=0>).

Yours sincerely,



**Dr C Eardley**  
**Head of School**