

Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

Dormers Wells Lane, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3HZ
Tel: 0208 566 6446 Fax: 0208 813 2411
Email: jrana@dwhs.co.uk



4th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year and I hope you have all had a wonderful festive break. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school this term.

I am writing to remind you about our arrangements for the return to school in January, and to also update you on the latest information from the Government about face coverings and the Omicron variant. Please read to the end of this letter as it provides important information, some of which is new and different to what I have communicated before.

Face Coverings:

The Government has advised that all students now need to wear a face covering in both classrooms and in communal areas. Please ensure that your child brings a face covering to school every day. While most students have been extremely reliable in remembering a face covering each day, there have been some who have forgotten each day. We ***cannot*** continue to supply face coverings to students who regularly forget, and reluctantly, we will soon need to consider charging for masks if students do not bring their own. I would recommend purchasing a set of reusable masks, which can be obtained very cheaply.

There are a small number of students who are mask exempt. Those students already on our mask exemption list were issued with a lanyard signaling they are exempt. If you feel your child should be on the list, please contact the school and ask to speak to the Year Leader who will discuss the medical reasons with you and issue a lanyard, if appropriate.

Staggered Return to School and Lateral Flow Testing:

As I explained in my last letter, the Government has asked all schools to test students for Covid prior to their return to school and has requested a staggered start to schools so that any cases of Covid are contained quickly and not spread amongst the school community.



Dormers Wells High School is part of Dormers Wells Learning Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (company number 11066479), c/o Dormers Wells High School, Dormers Wells Lane, Southall, UB1 3HZ

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	Testing	Return to School	
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Y7 Y12	Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Entry for testing through the main gate: Allenby Road
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Y8 Y13	Thursday 6 th January 2022	
Thursday 6 th January 2022	Y11 Y9	Friday 7 th January 2022	
Friday 7 th January 2022	Y10	Monday 10 th January 2022	

The Omicron variant and possible impact on school:

We all hope that this term remains as uneventful as possible, but with the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, we need to be realistic that this may result in multiple staff absences. If we have staff absence, we will always try to keep children in school, using our own cover teachers or supply staff where we can. Where staff absence is very high, and we are not able to source enough supply teachers, we may have to combine classes, or provide in-school learning in large groups. Where staff absence is exceptionally high, and it is not possible for us to provide education on-site in a safe manner, we will need to send some year groups home. If this were ever to happen, we would provide remote, online learning and keep the period of home learning as short as possible.

The best way for us to continue to keep the school open as normal is to keep Covid out of the school as much as possible, so please ensure that your child takes a lateral flow test twice a week. Do not send your child to school if he or she has a positive test result and let us know straight away. If your child has any flu or cold-like symptoms, please take a lateral flow test immediately, even if your child's symptoms appear to be very mild.

I anticipate that our return to school should be very straightforward, but I will of course contact you immediately if there are any further announcements from the Government.

With my very best wishes.

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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