

# Hartsfield JMI School

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Dear Parents/carers

I hope you all had a great break over the Christmas and New Year period.

As promised, I am sharing an update with you on the current situation around COVID at Hartsfield and our plans going forward.

As always, our approach is to consider advice and follow Government guidance with consideration to the needs of the Hartsfield community-children, staff and families of both.

Based on recent communications shared with us, we are due to start the term tomorrow with very limited COVID cases, and therefore high levels of attendance of children and staff. We hope this will continue but we need, in the light of the Omicron variant, to prepare for a potential increase in positive cases in January after the mixing over the holiday period.

We are not planning currently to return to year group 'bubbles' and will continue to deliver the full curriculum. To minimise unnecessary mixing however, in January, assemblies will be in classes, rather than mixed in the hall and we will be seating children with their year groups at lunchtimes. Staff will continue to regularly test and all adults will wear masks, unless exempt, in communal indoor areas (e.g. corridors). Staff will be working and having their breaks with their year group teams and staff meetings, for example, will be online. Our upcoming parent/teacher consultations will again be online and we will share details in the next couple of weeks.

To support our approach, we ask that those on site please follow the one-way system when entering and leaving. We encourage parents/carers to wear a mask on the playground when social distancing is not possible and to leave the site promptly.

Please continue to keep us informed if your child is unwell and do not send children back into school if they have COVID symptoms. The advice on testing (Lateral Flow testing vs PCR) and number of days of isolation continues to be reviewed by the Government and we will share and follow any guidelines shared by County and Government. If in doubt, please ring us rather than send your child into school while awaiting results or after testing positive or displaying symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to the start of the new term tomorrow.

*Philippa Smith*

Philippa Smith (Mrs)

Headteacher

