



29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you had a lovely weekend. There have been many announcements over the weekend regarding COVID-19. I wanted to write to you today to confirm what these messages mean for us all. We already made the wearing of face coverings compulsory in communal areas (unless medically exempt), so there is no change there with the government announcements. We would also ask that all visitors to school wear face coverings. Students should ensure they wear face coverings when travelling to school on public transport. The news of the new Omicron variant is concerning and close contacts of confirmed positive cases will be required to isolate for 10 days to help reduce the spread. We also recommend that your child continues to test twice a week on a Wednesday and Sunday and test kits will be provided by school.

We ask that all of our community take these precautions seriously to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, keep us in school and keep us as safe as possible and discuss these points with your child at home. As we approach the end of term we hope there is as little disruption as possible for us all and we can enjoy the Christmas break. We are also preparing for our return to school in January, I wanted to update you on our plans to keep people safe and allow for a smooth start to the school year.

Following Government guidance and to help school re-start as safely as possible, we will be asking students to complete 2 Lateral Flow COVID tests before we return.

As in September, we would like your child to perform the tests at home so you can supervise and support your child to complete their tests. The home test kits will be given out to students before we break up for the Christmas break or you can collect home testing kits for free from a local pharmacy. We ask that students complete their 1<sup>st</sup> test on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December and their 2<sup>nd</sup> test on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and log the results using the link below. **We begin the new term on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

#### **Student Reporting Lateral Flow Self-Test Results to School**

Please inform school of the test result using this link <http://bit.ly/studentcovidtestresults>

You will also need to log the test results with the NHS via the gov.uk website as well <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Students who test positive in either of their lateral flow tests **should not attend school** and will need to isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. If your child is unable to attend school, please inform school using [attendance@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk). Schools are no longer responsible for track and trace and will not need to isolate staff or students identified as close contacts. Close contacts will need to undertake a PCR test instead.

We would like to remind you of the importance of good attendance for your child to help them meet their potential and gain the best possible outcomes and future opportunities. Please work with our attendance officer, form tutors and pastoral leaders to ensure your child arrives on time and we overcome any barriers to ensure your child beats our target of 95% attendance.

Headteacher: Mr Scott Albon BSc (Hons) PGCE MEd

Barnwood Park School St Lawrence Road Barnwood Gloucester GL4 3QU

Tel: 01452 530389 Email: [admin@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk) Website: [www.barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk)



On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, we are supporting Save the Children with the wearing of a Christmas jumper for the donation of £1. This is not a non-uniform day but is an opportunity to support charity and those less fortunate than ourselves.

We also wish to praise the dedication, effort, perseverance and positive attitudes of our staff and students in overcoming the challenges they faced this term and maintaining their focus on their studies to ensure they met their potential.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S Albon", is positioned below the text "Kind regards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Mr Albon

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