



13th December 2021

RE: Updated COVID-19 Arrangements at AGFS

Dear parents and carers,

With the Omicron variant and an increase in COVID-19 cases nationally, the government has implemented their Plan B arrangements in England to reduce transmission. Over recent days, the school has also seen a rise in cases locally amongst staff and scholars, so we will now be taking some additional measures to limit the spread of the virus.

Providing face-to-face learning to our scholars is a priority, and your child must continue to attend school unless they are unwell or are required to self-isolate by NHS Test & Trace.

As ever, our priority is the safety of scholars and staff. We have an Outbreak Management Plan to ensure we are well prepared for all eventualities and will continue to take appropriate and proportionate measures.

We ask scholars and staff to continue testing for COVID-19 using a lateral flow test at least every 3-4 days from home. Tests are provided at school, but you can also order these for free [here](#). Please ensure you report any positive test results via the main school reception.

As you are aware, several additional mitigations are already in place at school to limit transmission including zoned arrival areas, staggered lunch arrangements, single file lesson transitions, hand sanitiser stations, enhanced classroom ventilation, forward-facing desks and the use of face coverings in communal areas (and other settings optionally). We are also asking any external guests to the school to take a test in the 24-hrs preceding their visit.

Unfortunately, given the local situation, it has now also been necessary to move the Christmas Concert to a pre-recorded event. This means there will be no guests on site. We are desperately disappointed to have to move this from a live in-person event but given the circumstances on the ground there is little alternative. Those parents who have already purchased tickets will receive a refund via WisePay. Assemblies will also take place via MS Teams for the remainder of this week.

I can confirm that arrangements for Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day remain unchanged. We plan for Drop Down Days to also go ahead as planned, but we will now be arranging travel via chartered coach rather than public transport. We will continue to work closely with third party providers to ensure all sensible precautions are being taken at venues. Any adjustments will be communicated with affected year groups.



Ark Greenwich Free School

We encourage you to follow Government guidance on testing over the Christmas holidays. This means taking a rapid lateral flow test any day when you will be in a high-risk environment (such as a crowded or enclosed space) or before visiting people who are at high risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

We are also required to provide an on-site test for scholars on return to school in January, this will take place on Wednesday 5th January, and I will confirm timings in the parent bulletin later this week.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and understanding at this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to contact the main school reception if you require further information or support.

Yours,

Mr Spiers
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www.arkgreenwichfreeschool.org

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