



Oak Trees Multi Academy Parent Newsletter – December 2021

Co-operate and collaborate
Achieve excellence for all
Raise aspirations and inspire imaginations
Explore new interests and new ideas

Covid-19 Update

As you will be aware, the Government have had to begin tightening Covid-19 rules across the country in response to the new Omicron variant which has arisen in the past few weeks. We have been informed this week that the plan moving forward for schools to address the issue is as follows:

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – **whether Omicron or not** – should take an NHS **rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days** to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily rapid testing applies to all contacts who are:

- **fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 jabs**
- **all children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months**, regardless of their vaccination status
- **people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons**

Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily rapid lateral flow testing.

Whilst I understand that this may be difficult for parents in terms of administering LFT tests to primary age children, as well as the difficulties in accessing tests in the first place, this is the guidance we have to follow and we would ask that you support us in following these rules in the coming weeks after Christmas.

On another note, as a Trust, we have recently sought parents' opinions as to how our schools are performing. Whilst feedback was very positive, we are aware of the need to invite parents into school more and to provide them with a greater understanding of their child's performance. Whilst the Covid-19 crisis has largely meant that we have had to restrict access and opportunities for parents to come into school and feel part of the community, we would like to focus on this key area and try to provide more opportunities for parents to engage with our schools. However, as you can all understand, we have had to fit in with Covid-19 regulations at all times over the past 18 months and will need to continue to do so in the coming months also. The new variant may hamper our plans to further improve in this area, but we will do everything we can to get parents and carers into schools when it safe to do so.

Exciting Upcoming Events

As a Trust, we are lucky to be able to run a number of cross-Trust events which we hope will be exciting for our children and give them opportunities to do things they may not ordinarily be able to do. This year, we are planning a number of exciting activities in terms of PE and IT, and we are also stepping up our work with Unilever, who will be running a MAT-wide competition during the first few weeks of January across our schools. We have also organised a MAT show in May at the Floral Pavilion for Year 4 children to take part in, and will be working with a composer in February to create a MAT song. I will keep you up to date with any further events in the coming weeks.

OFSTED Reports

I must pay tribute to the staff at Poulton Lancelyn and Stanton Road for their recent OFSTED inspection reports. Two of the founding schools for the Trust, the reports highlight their fabulous practice and how well they are performing under the new OFSTED framework, which focuses primarily on the quality of education given by the schools. In both cases, inspectors were impressed by the quality of education being provided and by the enthusiastic attitudes of the pupils. The reports have now been sent to

parents and are available on the OFSTED website. Well done to all the staff at both schools who do an amazing job each and every day for their children. We really appreciate you all!

Black History Month

In October our schools worked together in celebration of Black History Month. Each school displayed a mural of Martin Luther King based on his famous 'I have a dream' speech which the children added to with their own dreams for the future. The children have also been studying the lives of significant people in history, including Katherine Johnson, whose mathematical skills helped NASA put an astronaut into space and Walter Tull, a British Army officer of Afro-Caribbean descent.

Dan Arnold

On Friday 12th November, all MAT schools tweeted only once to pay our respects for Mr Dan Arnold, a teacher from Poulton Lancelyn who very sadly died recently. Dan was a larger than life character who, earlier in his career taught for a number of years at Poulton Lancelyn before moving on to be deputy Headteacher at Redcourt. He stepped in to support Egremont a few years ago as an experienced teacher and did a fantastic job for the Trust, and recently returned to Poulton Lancelyn where he again did a tremendous job leading computing and teaching in the juniors. Dan was much loved by everyone who worked with him, and his death has affected a significant number of staff and parents across the Trust and Wirral. He will be missed by everyone, and all our deepest condolences go to his wife Mrs Arnold and their two children Eloise and Oliver.

Final Message

If any changes to provision are announced before we return in January, we will make sure that we write to you before the schools open to advise you of what these changes are and the likely impact on you and your children.

Thank you for your continued support for our schools. We hope that you have a restful and safe Christmas, and look forward to seeing the children back in January.

Tony Lacey

CEO

Oak Trees MAT

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