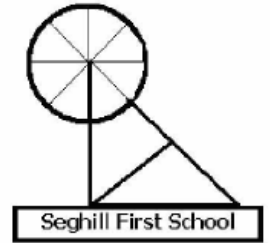




Seghill First School

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Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



08 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

'Highly probable' Omicron variant associated with our school

I am writing to advise you that a case of COVID-19 that is suspected to be the new Omicron variant has been linked with Seghill First School.

This is not currently a confirmed case of the Omicron variant, but it is being treated as such whilst we undertake further testing and investigation.

As with other cases identified in England, positive cases are self-isolating and robust contact tracing has taken place to trace their contacts. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 have been identified as possible contacts of the individual concerned and as a precautionary measure the UKHSA is now offering testing to these year groups to reduce any possible transmission.

Your child **has not been identified** as a close contact so does not need to undertake a PCR test. However, it is important to remain alert to the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and to keep your child off school if they develop any symptoms or test positive.

Please be assured that there is currently no evidence to suggest this variant causes more serious illness than other variants but monitoring the cases of COVID in the community helps us gain a better understanding of how different variants spread.

It is important that everyone takes sensible precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. This includes:

- Regular handwashing;
- Following all guidance on the wearing of facemasks;
- Ensure rooms are ventilated if meeting inside.

Thank you for your ongoing support. You play a vital role in this public health response to the pandemic.

Miss Chappell
Headteacher