Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Head of Education

Our ref:	SN/AW
Your ref:	
If calling ask for:	
Phone:	01698 454475
Date:	7 December 2021

Dear Parent/carer

NHS Lanarkshire's test and protect team are carrying out contact tracing after cases of COVID-19 which are likely to be the new omicron variant were identified in the school community in St John's Primary School, Hamilton.

NHS Lanarkshire is working closely with South Lanarkshire Council in relation to the school and is contacting those identified as close contacts. Public health advice is being given to these individuals and they are being told to self-isolate in line with Public Health Scotland guidance.

Due to the impact of self-isolation on school staff numbers, we have decided to temporarily close the school from tomorrow (Wednesday 8 December) for three days. It is planned that the school will reopen on Monday, 13 December subject to public health advice.

Remote learning will be provided for pupils where possible, and the school will provide further information on accessing online resources and learning.

We are very sorry for any disruption and any inconvenience the closure may cause, and we will continue to keep you updated as information becomes available.

If your child has already been identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Protect, the advice from Public Health Lanarkshire is to continue to self-isolate and to get a PCR test.

In the meantime, we would also like to remind you of the general measures that we all should apply at all times in order to minimise the spread of COVID-19:
Please be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If you or anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19 then all household members must self-isolate. A PCR test should be booked as soon as possible for anyone who has symptoms. Your whole household should stay at home until the test result comes back.

To help reduce the risk to your family and your school community, please also follow wider Scottish Government guidance:

Arrange vaccination as soon as possible, if you or anyone eligible in your family have not yet been fully vaccinated (including booster doses for those eligible). Further information is available at www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine. Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell.

Wear a face covering in line with guidance, keep your distance, keep rooms ventilated, and wash your hands with soap and water regularly.

You and the rest of your family, including primary school-aged children, can access free test kits through the Universally Accessible Testing programme, which is available to everyone in Scotland.

How to arrange a COVID-19 test
PCR tests: Book a test at NHS Inform for your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through, and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/covid-symptoms/. Or you can order a home PCR test kit online, or by calling 119. A test will then be delivered to your home. To return you can either drop the test at your nearest priority post box, or if you are unable to go out, you can also call 119 to book a courier collection from your home.

Lateral flow tests: Free at-home LFD test kits are available for you and your primary school aged children by collection from COVID test centres or pharmacies, or delivery by ordering online. More information can be found at:www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms.

Further Information
For general Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions and information:
www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus and www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19

Yours sincerely

Stewart Nicolson
Head of Education (Senior Phase)