Church House

St John’s Terrace

North Shields

Tyne and Wear

NE29 6HS

Telephone: 0191 2704163

Website: [www.durhamnewcastledlt.co.uk](http://www.durhamnewcastledlt.co.uk)

14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you are acutely aware the number of cases of COVID, and in particular the Omicron strain, continue to rise in the North. Unfortunately, at Holy Trinity CofE Primary School we have been monitoring an evolving situation where the virus is spreading rapidly.

At Holy Trinity there are currently 42 pupils and 3 staff members who have tested positive and are isolating; a further 6 children are symptomatic and awaiting a test result. This is in addition to the 7 pupils and 3 staff members who have returned to school, after being positive and isolating, since our return to school last Tuesday.

Mrs Baines and her staff team continue to work tirelessly to ensure all mitigations are in place in school to try and slow the spread of the virus. **Please** can I ask you to play your part by regularly testing your children prior to them coming to school each day. I realise this can be challenging and I understand this is not something that anyone enjoys. However, if cases continue to rise in staff and/or children we may have to consider switching to remote learning for a “fire break”. Likewise, if staff are off with the virus and unable to teach there are no supply staff available to offer remote learning.

Please understand this is the last thing as a Trust we want to do. We completely accept that this will be challenging for everyone and we will only move to this course of action if advised by our Health and Safety team.

I have asked Mrs Baines to keep me regularly updated personally along with the schools Health and Safety Adviser so that we can ensure you are kept fully informed.

Thank you again for your ongoing support during this incredibly challenging time.

Best wishes



**Canon Paul Rickeard**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust**