

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

23rd January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID Update

You may be aware that we have had a very high number of children and staff who have tested positive for COVID since the return to school but in particular over the last ten days. From 12th January, we have implemented our Outbreak Management Plan which has involved placing the children back in their bubbles and no mixing of classes whilst continuing with our high level cleaning and personal hygiene measures. We are able to put such measures in place to mitigate the risks but cannot control mixing of children outside of school.

As a result of the number of cases, we have been in touch with Public Health England and the Local Authority throughout the week who stated that they are really pleased with the measures the school has in place. They particularly noted how parents had followed recommendations to test their children if they are in classes where a number of cases had been identified. A high percentage of the children who have tested positive have been asymptomatic and, due to routine testing or testing following our letters of notification, these children have not come into school. We are thankful to those parents who have done this.

The impact of the number of cases has resulted in a very challenging time trying to cover classes, Newchurch Robins and lunchtimes with staff absences whilst also maintaining face to face education and limit the mixing of children. After further correspondence with Public Health this weekend, they have suggested that we ask parents to test their children today or Monday morning to enable any asymptomatic children to be detected thus potentially reducing the possibility of COVID entering the school building and causing cases to increase. Of course, this is a request and we respect that it is your choice as parents as to whether you do test your children. Please could you notify the school via email Newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk or by phone 01925 763427.

Schools are facing a very difficult time at the moment as the restrictions in the wider society are being reduced more and more but cases in some schools seem to be increasing. Should cases continue to rise



LOTTERY FUNDED



this week, we will be continuing to ask parents to wear masks when entering the school grounds and socially distance as much as possible.

Household Support Fund – for benefits related Free School Meals children

The Household Support Fund is the next tranche of government funding to support vulnerable families with food costs and utility bills between October 2021 and March 2022 (previously known as the Local Support Grant, and prior to that the Winter Grant Fund). Everyone who was in receipt of the previous grant funding will automatically be notified about the new household support fund, and if still on benefits will be paid £40 per child to cover the Christmas and New Year period for meals and towards their general household bills. Please note that these families **do not** need to apply again.

For any new benefits related FSM children, families can make their first claim via the following application form: [Household Support Fund | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/household-support-fund) As previously done, you will receive a payment for each child either direct into your bank account or you can request post office vouchers.

There will be further payments made to cover February half term. If you have any questions regarding the application form or the household support fund please contact:
HouseholdSupportFund@warrington.gov.uk.

For those families not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals who have hit financial hardship over the winter months, you can apply for the existing Welfare Assistance Fund <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/localsupportscheme> which is a one off payment which is awarded based on individual needs.

Parking, drop off and collection

Last week, we were made aware of a young child being left in a car whilst the driver was picking up children from school. This is concerning and also a safeguarding issue. Witnesses of this have been advised to inform the police. If you find yourself in this position, please let the school know and we can arrange for children to be brought to the gate for you.

In addition, we have seen a number of cars parking close to the corner of school on the double yellow lines. A few years ago there was a terrible accident resulting in someone getting knocked over and sustaining significant injuries as a result of someone parking illegally and in an unsafe position. Please do not be offended if we ask you to move your car if we feel it is for the safety of others. Thank you to those parents dropping off and collecting their children in cars at the start and end of the day who continue to be considerate of our neighbours and do not park across their driveways.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued and valued support.

Take care and please keep safe,

Mrs Jayne Narraway



Headteacher

