

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

3rd January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

First of all, we do hope that you have been able to have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and on behalf of all the staff here at Newchurch, we would like pass on our best wishes for the year ahead.

Over the weekend the Government shared some updated Covid guidance for educational settings. You will likely be aware of details from recent news coverage, but, as a follow up to our letter before Christmas, we thought it might be helpful for us to highlight some key points:

Staff will undertake a self-test at home either tonight or tomorrow morning (before arrival at school) and then continue to test twice weekly at home.

Since 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for those who record a positive PCR test has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Individuals should take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results on day 6 and 7 would then no longer be required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with lateral flow testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8 unless they have a high temperature.

People who are fully vaccinated, or those aged between 5-18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 should take a lateral flow test **every day for seven days** and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. You will be notified if your child has been in close contact in the usual way via a text alert and a follow-up letter on the school website.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon



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as possible. They can continue to attend school while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

From Sunday 2 January it is recommended that face coverings are worn in all classrooms in secondary schools. This is not recommended in primary schools but we will not stop children from wearing them if they feel they would like to.

We would also like to remind you that we will continue to be leaving windows and doors open even during these winter months, so we would encourage the wearing of warm clothes and layers!

Can we take the opportunity to thank you for your continued and valued support. As always, if we work together to take every precaution and continue to be vigilant for any symptoms, we will ensure the continuation of learning for the children. We are conscious that many sectors, including education, may be faced with staffing challenges over the coming weeks and months, but please be assured that we will be doing all we can to support our Newchurch robins.

Tomorrow, the teachers and teaching assistants have an INSET day but the office will be manned all day should you have any queries or you can email Newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk We look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 5th January.

Take care and please keep safe,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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