

Newchurch Community Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear parent/carer,

### Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

As per our previous correspondence, staff will now be carrying out Lateral Flow Tests twice a week, usually Monday and Thursdays (or the day they start if they are part time). Lateral flow testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be unknowingly spreading the virus. Around 1 in 3 individuals with COVID-19 do not display symptoms and therefore, opening testing up to catch those showing no symptoms will help to find positive cases earlier and to break the chains of transmission.

All members of staff are asked to inform myself or Mr Duckett of the outcome of their test by 7:30am. Should it return negative, then the member of staff is free to come into school and carry out their duties as normal. However, if the LFT reads positive, then the member of staff will be asked to go for a PCR test and isolate for 10 days. If that member of staff was in close contact with a class within the last 48 hours, the class will also need isolate.

We fully acknowledge that the regularity of testing of potentially asymptomatic staff members may cause an increase in the number of classes being asked to isolate, which will have an impact on some families, but, as you can appreciate, the alternative is far worse and we need to support the country in fighting the transmission of COVID-19.

### Returning to school and remote learning

As you are all fully aware, there is no intention to open primary schools until at least 8<sup>th</sup> March and therefore we will be continuing with our remote learning as it currently stands. Although we are delighted with the way in which our provision has developed over the last few weeks, and celebrate that 93% of our children are consistently engaging in daily remote learning, nothing beats face to face teaching in a classroom.

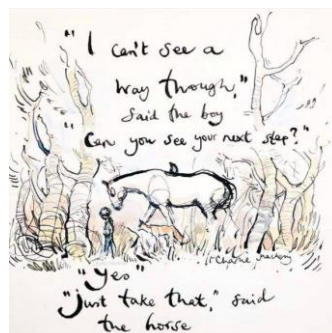
We are in awe of the work the children are doing at home supported so ably by you as parents, and also can see the progress children both in school and at home are making. Obviously, as educators, the continuation of learning has been our priority but acknowledge the sacrifices families are having to



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make to make the home learning happen. With the uncertainty of the return date for schools, it is hard to keep the momentum going and some of you may be thinking, 'How do I manage this for longer?' You can. You are all doing a great job but make it work for you. We have some parents who have contacted us to explain the difficulties they are having and we are aware of this when their child is not on line, or work is submitted later in the day. All we ask is that you let us know so we can understand and support as best we can.



### Curriculum Mats

Firstly, thank you for the amazing work which has been produced so far from the curriculum mats across the school. They were initially used to facilitate parental conferences and have since allowed statutory staff PPA to take place. However, we recognise that this style of learning will not suit all of our robins and their families. Having listened to feedback, we have decided to make some changes to the structure of a Friday. Starting this week (5th February), the children will be continuing with their online learning during the morning, in the same way as they experience from Monday-Thursday. In the afternoon, they will then commence a more choice driven curriculum which the mats offer. Below is the structure for the next two weeks up to half term.

Date	AM	PM
5th Feb	<b>Structured Blended Learning</b> (this is likely to include English and Mathematics)	<b>Mental Health Week Activities</b> (These are available on each class' Google Classroom page)
12th Feb	<b>Structured Blended Learning</b> (this is likely to include English and Mathematics)	<b>Ongoing Curriculum Mat</b> (These are available on each class' Google Classroom page)

We hope that you can see how important your feedback is to us as a school and how we are trying to support each aspect of the blended learning experience. We just ask that you are patient as we try approaches which are new to us as a school too and that if you have any concerns or queries then school is your first point of call.



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## Learning Resource Packs

We have managed to put together a new set of resources for the children to replenish those which may be coming to an end from the original pack sent out in January. These will be made available for collection from school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. We are not able to deliver these as we do not currently have staffing capacity to do so. To help us manage the flow of people on the school site, we have allocated the following times for each year group:

	Reception		10:00am – 10:30am
	Year 1		10:45am – 11:15am
	Year 2		11:15am – 11:45am
	Year 3		12:00pm – 12:30pm
	Year 4		12:45pm – 1:15pm
	Year 5		1:30pm – 2:00pm
	Year 6		2:15pm – 2:45pm

If you have more than one child, you can select whichever time is most convenient to you as a family to collect the packs for all children all at once. The packs will generally not be labelled with names, just take one and this will be recorded by the school office. If your child has a specific pack with content for them in particular then the office will distribute this to you, so please inform the office before taking a pack.

As a school we always have Religious Education and Art in the last week and so the teachers will have added some art resources linked to the learning the children will receive week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## Children's Mental Health Week

This week brings to the forefront of our minds the need to support the children with their mental health. Our school website has a number of links that you can go to which will give guidance on how best to support your child if they are struggling with big feelings during the current lockdown.

We have seen an increase in the number of children demonstrating poor mental health and there are a number of services available to schools to help children and families. If you feel like your child needs support, please contact school and we will be able to guide you according to your individual needs.



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Action for happiness is a website which gives daily activities to support wellbeing. Some of the activities are really worth a go. Check out: [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)



On Friday, we are inviting all children at home and school to wear as many colours as they can as part of our non-uniform day. We are hoping that all the bright colours will put a smile on everyone's faces.

### Please help us keep our office staff safe

We have seen an increase in the number of parents calling into the school office to drop off lunchboxes and water bottles their child has forgotten to take to school. Please could we urge you to help us keep our office staff safe as this can be up to three families a day. The items are needed for that day so cannot be quarantined in the same way as other parcels as per our risk assessment; therefore, they pose a risk of transmission to the staff in the office who must handle them and then enter a class bubble they do not belong to in order to deliver the item. If you multiply this by three, this is an increased risk which is unavoidable. It may seem a small thing to mention to you but, as we are seeing from the rising number of cases lately, transmission of the virus is so easy and we must mitigate every risk. Your support in this is very much appreciated.

Once again, thank you so much for your continued and valued support. You are doing an amazing job and remember you can only do what you can do.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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