

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
Culcheth
Warrington
WA3 4DX



Telephone: 01925 763427
Fax: 01925 766045
www.newchurchprimary.co.uk
Email: newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

12th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school we have always taken pride in the partnership that exists between home and school. With this in mind, we feel that it is important to keep you up to date with the current situation and the difficulties we are facing with the rise in COVID cases.

Since the introduction of lateral flow tests, staff have tested twice weekly and reported this to the DfE. In line with the new guidance when they have been in close contact with a positive case (which is inevitable in a classroom), they have taken a lateral flow test at the start of each day.

As you will be aware from our correspondence to each of the classes individually, we have seen a rise in the number of positive cases of COVID across school and, as with many sectors, we are experiencing staffing issues as a result of this. Should any more staff need to isolate, it may be that we have to close classes and move on line. Doing so would be a last resort and not what we wish to happen as it impacts on the children and you as parents.

It is very clear that the new Omicron variant is more transmissible and children, and adults, are not always displaying symptoms which makes it difficult to detect if someone is positive with COVID-19. Therefore, we have taken the decision to implement the Outbreak Management Plan today meaning that classes will be back in their bubbles for a short while, with staggered breaks and lunchtimes and no mixing of any kind. This will also apply to children in Robins each morning and after school. Afterschool clubs, which were due to commence on 17th January, will be postponed for the time being. We envisage this to be a short term measure and will keep you informed as to how things are going.

In the meantime, we are asking parents and carers for some help in mitigating the risk of transmission.

Drop off and collection times

Please could we ask that all children are punctual as we are seeing a significant increase in children arriving late which means they are going through the school entrance rather than their class entrance.



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The times for the start and end of the day are as follows:

Start Time	KS1	KS2	Finish time
8:30am (booster sessions)		Year 6	3:20pm
8:50am	Year 2	Year 4	3:05pm
8:55am	Reception	Year 5	3:10pm
9:00am	Year 1	Year 3	3:15pm

During this time, unless they are exempt for medical reasons, all adults should be wearing a face covering and maintaining social distancing as much as possible. We will be returning to only one person being allowed to enter the school premises at these times. This is to reduce the number of bodies on site and thus reducing the risk of transmission.

Communication with school

If you have a query or need to pass a message to the class teacher, please could we ask that you either phone the office on 01925 763427, or email Newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk rather than coming into the school building.

Isolation guidance

Since 22nd 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. For many classes, there has been a positive case identified and therefore we recommend that you follow this advice so as to avoid further cases which could result in classes needing to work from home.

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; however, this can be at the parent's discretion. 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 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](#).



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As you can appreciate, every day holds a new challenge for us and the landscape is ever changing. We would like nothing better than to wave a magic wand and for us to be back to 'normal' but unfortunately we are living in unpredictable times. However, if we work together to take every precaution and continue to be vigilant of any symptoms, we will ensure the continuation of face to face learning for our Newchurch Robins.

Take care and please keep safe,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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