

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
Culcheth
Warrington
WA3 4DX



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

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

16th March 2021

Dear parent/carer,

As the number of COVID cases and fatalities appear to be reducing and an increasing percentage of the population are being vaccinated, it can appear that things are getting back to some form of 'normality'. What we must remember is that this devastating virus is still prevalent in society as seen by the rapid increase in cases on the Isle of Man over the last few days.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that we have a number of families who are not adhering to the restrictions and are therefore putting our children, families and staff at risk. We have been alerted to children having play dates, meeting on the park and even sleepovers. Although we have no authority to enforce this, we would hope that you understand the anxiety this is causing to families who are sticking to the rules, the staff who are working alongside children from many families in the Newchurch community and those with vulnerable family members at home. It may be that those who are breaking the rules think that it is allowed to meet as they spend every day in school together. In school, there are very tight procedures linked to our risk assessment which allows for this to happen.

With all the changes in restrictions it could be that some people are not fully aware of what the current restrictions are. The following information is taken directly from the government guidance. The message remains clear, you must not leave or be outside of your home except where you have a 'reasonable excuse'. This is the law. The police can take action against you if you leave home without a 'reasonable excuse', and issue you with a fine (Fixed Penalty Notice). You can be given a Fixed Penalty Notice of £200 for the first offence, doubling for further offences up to a maximum of £6,400.

A 'reasonable excuse' includes:

- Work
- Essential activities such as going to the shops and this should be just one person if possible
- Education
- Meeting others from your support bubble (if you are legally permitted to form one)
- Provide emergency assistance
- Exercise and outdoor recreation - You can leave your home to exercise or to visit a public outdoor place for outdoor recreation, such as a coffee on a bench or a picnic in a park. This can be on your own, with one other person when in a public outdoor place, or with your household or support bubble. **Children meeting up with friends from school or other schools is not permitted under these guidelines.**

If you share custody of your child with someone you do not live with, you can continue existing arrangements and the child can move freely between both households. Travelling between these households for this reason is



permitted. Where parents share custody of a child under 14, both households are eligible to form a childcare bubble.

What is a support bubble?

You can form a support bubble with another household of any size if:

- you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
- you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
- your household includes a child who is under the age of one or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5, or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- you are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults
- you are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020

You should not form a support bubble with a household that is part of another support bubble.

What is a childcare bubble?

A support bubble is different to a childcare bubble. Being in a support bubble does not stop you from forming a childcare bubble. You might be able to form a childcare bubble to provide or receive childcare from one other household if you live with someone under the age of 14. However, you must not meet socially with your childcare bubble, and must avoid seeing members of your childcare and support bubbles at the same time.

Where possible, you should avoid changing your support or childcare bubble. This will help prevent spreading the virus between households. If necessary – for example, your circumstances or that of your existing support bubble changes – you may form a new support bubble provided that:

- your household, or the one you intend to form a new support bubble with, meets at least one of the [eligibility rules](#)
- the other household is not already part of a support bubble which they intend to remain a part of

If you decide to change your support bubble, you should treat your previous bubble as a separate household for 10 days before forming a new bubble.

If someone in your previous support bubble develops symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus up to 48 hours after members of the bubble last met, all members of the bubble must [self-isolate for 10 days](#). You must not form a new bubble until you have completed your self-isolation.

For further details on the current restrictions, which are in place until 29th March, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

It is important to remember that the current restrictions will only be lifted if the number of confirmed cases and fatalities reduce. Everyone must take responsibility for making this happen.

Reinforcing the message to the children

It is important that the children are also aware of the message and the restrictions. Rather than delivering a virtual assembly today, I will be visiting each classroom and speaking with classes about the restrictions and their role in keeping to them. This is so they are able to ask any questions. Some children are expressing concern when they hear that their friends are having sleepovers and meeting up at the park, and therefore asking their parents why they cannot do the same. We ask that you support us in our message to the children.



Uniform

After careful consideration, we are looking to make a few modifications to our school uniform. Here are our thoughts:

Year groups	Clothing	Rationale
Reception	Red hoodie with Newchurch logo on White polo shirt Black joggers Trainers	Children are indoors and outdoors throughout the day Children will find self-care much easier More practical and easier to wash
Years 1 and 2	Red cardigan or jumper with Newchurch logo on White polo shirt Grey pinafore, skirt, shorts or trousers Red gingham dress in the Summer term	No change
Key Stage 2	Red V neck cardigan or jumper with Newchurch logo on White blouse or shirt School tie Grey pinafore, skirt, shorts or trousers Red gingham dress in the Summer term	In preparation for high school A more formal uniform as a sense of respect

PE Kits

We have decided to continue to allow the children to come into school in their PE kits when it is their class PE day. The PE kit will consist of:

- A black hoodie with the Newchurch logo
- Black joggers for outdoor PE
- Black shorts or skorts
- A red polo shirt
- Trainers

As this is a change at whole school level, we would very much like to gather parental views on the changes that we are considering. Our usual procedure is to meet with the Parent Board and make changes but as the decisions made impact on all our families, we have decided to cast our 'net' a little wider. Therefore, we would like to invite you to complete the following google form to express your support for the changes or to ask questions for further clarification: <https://forms.gle/wsR5YZjV4ySKYBg57> The form will close on Tuesday 23rd March.

The views received will be communicated to the Parent Board (a collection of parent volunteers from all classes) for further discussion and then the governing body. Should you wish to attend the virtual Parent Board meeting on Wednesday 24th March at 6:15pm, please indicate this on the google form and we will send you an calendar invite.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support and valued opinion.

Take care and keep safe,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



LOTTERY FUNDED

