



Ringway, Guidepost, Northumberland, NE62 5YP

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Headteacher: Mrs L Robson

Newsletter 3

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely holiday and are feeling well and refreshed for the year ahead. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022.

It is lovely to see the children back in school today excited to share their experiences of what they have been doing over the festive period.

Unfortunately, we are starting the year off with staff and children having tested positive for Covid over the break and with current news of the Omnicrom variant, we expect there to be more Covid cases this term.

On Sunday, the Government released new guidance for schools. I have highlighted key changes below. All other previous guidance remains the same.

### **Testing**

Staff should continue to test twice weekly at home. Even if someone has tested positive for Covid within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LF testing at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

### **Self-isolation Period**

Since Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Covid has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LF tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer 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 LF testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and children/staff do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school.

### **Close Contacts**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid should take a LF 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. 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 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with Covid, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting 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 infection.

Close contacts in schools are identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings are not expected to undertake contact tracing. We will however inform you of any positive cases within your child's class and if numbers continue to increase we will implement our Covid contingency plan.

### **Continued Learning**

We recognise that high rates of Covid may cause difficulties with the availability of staff. Our priority is to keep school open and continue face-to-face education, as much as possible. Where issues arise, we will do our best to find appropriate solutions. If individual children are isolating but are either asymptomatic or are well enough, work will be provided by their class teacher on Class Dojo.

### **Face Coverings**

Staff are being asked to wear face coverings in communal areas and we ask all parents (unless exempt) to wear face coverings whilst on school grounds.

### **Yellow Lines outside Classroom Doors**

Outside each classroom door there is yellow tape – we ask that parents wait behind these lines and do not cross over into the school building, this is to further protect the school and staff from any possible Covid infections.

### **Other Reminders to Reduce Risk**

- We will work to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes and keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- We will follow public health advice on managing confirmed cases of Covid.
- Please use the one-way system for drop-off and pick-up times.
- Please ensure you and your child are on time for the start of the day so children do not enter through the main entrance.
- Please only enter the school building if you have made an appointment.
- When attending school for an appointment, we ask that you wear a face covering, use hand sanitizer and maintain distance when possible. We also recommend that you take a lateral flow test before you attend.

Despite the continued challenges for everyone, we look forward to a positive spring term.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs L Robson

## Information

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Pupils are expected to arrive at school at their allocated start times.

Reception and KS1 (Years 1 and 2) start at 8.55am.

KS2 (Years 3,4,5,6) start at 8.45am.

Any absences must be reported to the school office on each day of absence. When leaving messages, it is important you make it clear why your child is ill and what their symptoms are. Please be honest if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid 19 – we need to continue to work together to follow guidelines and keep school as safe and healthy as possible for everyone.

### **Uniform and Footwear.**

During these colder months, please remember children can wear a plain black hoody or their school jumper/cardigan on PE days. They may also like to bring a spare plain black hoody or school jumper/cardigan to wear in the classrooms as we need to ensure classrooms are well ventilated throughout the day.

A reminder that footwear must be black shoes where possible. If trainers are to be worn these must be plain black school trainers. Black boots can be worn so long as they are sturdy black ankle boots and must be as plain as possible.

If for any reason children cannot wear the expected uniform, school should be informed via letter or email.

### **School Dinners**

A reminder that school lunches must be ordered on ParentPay by midnight on Thursday for the following week. This is to help us when ordering the food into school. Any child who has not ordered their meals in advance, will be given the main hot food option each day for the following week.

### **Change to Term Dates**

Please note there has been a slight change in term dates for this academic year. School will break up for our summer break on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July instead of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### **Forest School**

Forest school continues this term – please familiarise yourself with date for your child's class below. It is important children have a warm, waterproof coat, hat, scarf, gloves and wellies or other suitable shoes. Sessions are in the afternoon and therefore shoes/wellies should be brought into school in a bag to change into unless they are already in school

## School Calendar

Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Non – uniform day for House winners.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 6 Forest School session PM.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 5 Forest School session PM.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 3 visit to the Hancock museum.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	Year 4 Forest School session PM.
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Year 3 Forest School session PM.
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022	Year 6 SATs parents information meeting – virtual via Zoom at 4pm.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Reception Forest School session PM.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Children’s Mental Health week.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Safer Internet day.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Year 1 Forest School session PM.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Assessment week in school.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Year 2 Forest School session PM.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Break up for half term.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Children return to school.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022	World Book Day.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Non – uniform day for House winners.
WB Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Parent evening phone calls – individual class dates to be confirmed.
Wb Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Science theme week.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Break up for Easter holidays.

- Forest School session dates for Spring 2 term to be confirmed.