



Ringway, Guidepost, Northumberland, NE62 5YP

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Headteacher: Mrs L Robson

Newsletter 4

28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. I hope that you and your families have had a restful break.

You may have heard over the last week that the guidance to schools on asymptomatic testing and self-isolation for Covid have changed.

On February 21st, the Prime Minister announced that England would move into a new phase of managing Covid. He said that we as a country would now be dealing with the virus by "moving from government restrictions to personal responsibility, so we protect ourselves without losing our liberties."

Essentially, this places responsibility on the public to manage the spread of the disease in their communities by making sensible decisions. There are no significant changes to the government's advice, just changes to the law enforcing that advice.

As a school, we must continue to be careful and take sensible precautions - reducing the risk while impacting as little as possible on school life. Outbreaks of illness affect how well classes can run, but most importantly, we have members of our wider community and staff who are vulnerable or have close family members who are, so a cautious approach is needed to help keep them safe.

### **What happens now if my child tests positive or develops Covid symptoms?**

The government is advising parents to keep their children at home for at least 5 full days and then until they have had two negative test results on consecutive days, even if the child has no symptoms.

For the reasons stated above, and following government guidance, we cannot let children come into school if they have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid. We hope you agree that this is a sensible stance to take. Even if a child may be symptom-free, other people in our community might not be so lucky. Allowing children to come into school while they are infectious poses a significant risk to others. The advice says:

*'Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive are continued to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.'*

For schools, this places Covid on the same level as the current policy for when children have other infectious illnesses such as chicken pox or vomiting/diarrhoea. These require children to

be clear of symptoms for a fixed period of time before returning to school (e.g. the well-known 48 hours for vomiting/diarrhoea). Again, we hope that families understand and appreciate the reasons why they must keep their children at home if they test positive or begin to show symptoms of Covid.

### **How often should I test my child?**

We are recommending that children take a test if they begin to show symptoms of Covid, and that they then test on day 5 and 6 of the infection, following the advice to stay at home until they get two negative test results taken 24 hours apart.

### **Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Public Health advice for people with Covid and their contacts also changed from 24<sup>th</sup> February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended. School will therefore no longer be sending texts/letters out to parents letting them know of cases or if their child has been in contact with a positive case.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to keep our school community safe and healthy.

Mrs L Robson

## Information

### **Parents Evenings**

We will be holding face to face parent evening appointments this half term in the school hall. These will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm-6pm and each appointment will last 10 minutes. You will receive your child's spring report this week and your appointment will be a good opportunity for you to discuss this and future targets with staff. Please sign up on the online link.

### **World Book Day**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March your child is invited to dress up as one of their favourite book character for World Book day (or they can wear the white t-shirt they designed in school on Monday). There are various other activities planned throughout the week.

Please join us for a family quiz on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the Hall from 3.45pm.

Our Book fair will be held in the hall from 3.20pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. School will receive commission from any books sold to help us buy new books to update our libraries.

### **Early Pick Ups**

Last half term there were many parents picking their child up early from school resulting in children missing some of their afternoon lessons. If you would like to pick your child up early, this needs to be arranged at least 24 hours in advance and only when absolutely necessary. Where this is for medical appointments, we will require evidence of the appointment. Early pick ups are all recorded and monitored regularly with our Education Welfare Officer and will impact your child's attendance score.

### **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**

Please familiarise yourself with date for your child's class below. Shoes/wellies should be brought into school in a bag to change into unless they are already in school.

### **Wedding Congratulations**

This half term we welcome back Miss Fisher from maternity leave. After having to postpone her wedding due to Covid, she was finally able to be married in November and is now known as Mrs Lewis (I'm sure she will still go by both names for a little while).

## School Calendar

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Book Fair – School hall 3.20pm – 4pm
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Book Fair – School hall 3.20pm – 4.30pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022	World Book Day fancy dress
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022	World Book Day family quiz 3.45pm in the school hall
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	House winners non-uniform – Earth
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Spring reports sent to parents
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Year 6 Forest School
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Parents Evening
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Parents Evening
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Year 5 Forest School
Wb Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Science week.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Year 4 Forest School
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Year 3 Forest School
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Reception Forest School
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Year 1 Forest School AM
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Year 2 Forest School PM
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Easter theme day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Non-uniform – summer fayre donation
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Break up for Easter holidays at normal times.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Children return to school
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	House winners non-uniform
WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> May – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Year 2 SATs
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Year 6 SATs
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Teacher Training Day/ Break up for Half Term.