

Cheswardine Primary and Nursery School

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Reach for the Stars

11.1.22

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back and Happy New Year.

It has taken me nearly a week to welcome you all back due to having to be sure I am giving you the right advice about testing for COVID and what we are doing going into the New Year, however I think I can now be a little clearer and hopefully we can have a great term with as many children as possible in school and learning.

Each class teacher will let you know their topics and what they are learning over the term and if any child needs to isolate and is well enough they should definitely log on to the class page on the website and their school email to join their class on Teams and keep up with their learning. KS1 classes often keep in touch through class Dojo but there will always be tasks to do on the web page. Our remote learning plan is still in place and can be accessed on the website. **Please make sure you can commit to its expectations and ask for help if you experience any issues if your child has to isolate.**

Current guidance means that any visitor into school needs to wear a mask and all staff have to wear one in communal areas and corridors. Until these restrictions are reviewed at the end of January we would discourage parents from coming into school but we have put in place parents meetings for later in the term and we are hoping to have a meeting regarding the Upper Key Stage 2 Residential in March very soon.

Face to face parents' meetings are currently planned for the 2nd and 3rd March across the school, however please contact your child's class teacher if you would like to discuss anything in the meantime and they will get in touch via the phone or through teams.

Advice for testing and reporting has changed from today and if any of your household has a positive lateral flow test they will need **to report the test to the NHS and isolate immediately**. Any children should take a lateral flow test everyday for seven days and report it both to the school and online. I am presently working on an online form for the website which you can fill in to report for the child each time. If your child tests negative on the lateral flow device they may come into school, if they test **positive** they need to isolate immediately for 10 days. If your child has to isolate **the day they had a positive test is day zero** and then on day 6 they can take a lateral flow test. If it is negative they must take another on day 7 (24 hours after the first). If this is negative they must report both tests and can return to school. If day 6 is positive but day 7 is negative they can do another one 24 hours after that on day 8 and if negative they can return to school. If the LFTs are still positive the child must do the whole 10 days isolation and return to school on day 11.

I hope you will take some time to process this advice and follow it in order to keep everyone safe and in school where they belong.



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If your child displays symptoms then you will need to book a PCR test as soon as possible, do not rely on a lateral flow test. Only if a negative PCR result is obtained can the child come into school. If positive they must begin the 10 day isolation but can follow the above advice with LFTs on day 6 and 7 allowing them to return to school if negative. **Do not send your child into school if they display any symptoms of COVID19.**

Symptoms (even minor symptoms)

Anyone with the 3 main symptoms are recommended to get a PCR test and **only return to school after a negative result**. They should also consider contacting 111 for medical advice if required because these symptoms are not unique to COVID-19.

The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of taste / smell

Those infected with the current main COVID-19 variant, especially children, do not always show the typical COVID symptoms listed above. Anyone with any of the following **precautionary symptoms** associated with COVID-19 are recommended to have a PCR test.

Precautionary symptoms may include:

- Headaches
- Aches & pains
- Feeling tired without any good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Itchy eyes or rash around the eyes.

The present recommendation is that staff in school test using LFTs twice a week. Families are also encouraged to test at least twice weekly and children in Year 5/6 would be advised to also do this. If families can use the LFTs on younger children that would be useful but the difficulties doing this are understood. If symptoms are witnessed then a PCR is recommended straight away. We recognise that supply of LFTs has caused some issues but we are hopeful this will be sorted out soon. **It is not recommended that LFTs are done on day 10** of isolation and children should return, if well enough, as soon as their isolation period ends.

We are committed to keeping the school open for face to face teaching and we will continue to keep trying to do this and provide the best education we can for each child every day.

Yours sincerely,

REWilliams

Rachael Williams (Executive Headteacher)



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