



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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24th February 2022

Newsletter 10

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely half-term break despite the extreme weather. Thankfully we escaped with no more than a few hefty twigs, a loose tile and a stray bin! We are aware that there are still some longer term effects of storm Eunice and Dudley, but hopefully we can now look forward to warmer weather, longer days and signs of spring.

Our value this half-term is Thanks.
Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.



We are thankful for what we have and will look after our world.

In my last newsletter I wrote that all the signs were that the isolation periods will be lifted on 21st February, and recent news coverage certainly made it seem that way, but we are not quite there yet!
 Our new guidance states:

From today, Monday 21 February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue 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.

In addition, the Government will: No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

The Local Authority has since summarised the new guidance as follows:

*Pupils/Students and staff should attend if they are well
 Pupils/Students and staff should stay at home if they are unwell –
 Schools/settings should refuse entry to those that are symptomatic or unwell
 Adults or children should have a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms and stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you test positive for at*

least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance (tests will remain available until the end of March 2022)

We will continue to use our standard protective measures to minimise transmission in the school.

So, it seems that we are going back to a system where **we only respond to the 3 main Covid-19 symptoms**, confirm with a PCR, then check with LFD tests when we are safe to return to school. **We no longer think about asymptomatic testing with LFD tests and only use LFD test results to confirm a positive case is over.**

At the moment we are still responding to the 3 main Covid symptoms and would ask that you do not send your child to school if they have any of them (high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell) or are unwell. We will also be asking you to confirm that your child is safe to come back to school using LFD tests and would need 2 negatives after the morning of day 5.

Clear as mud?! We are aware that this is another shift in our behaviours but feel it should minimise future disruption to school attendance for our children, which can only be a good thing. Please check in with us at the office if you need any clarification.

World Book Day

A separate letter has been sent home by Mrs Priestley, our English lead. As always reading is high priority here at Newdigate and we are looking forward to celebrating the joy and growth that books bring into our world.



Emergency!

We have had a very exciting day today with gasps from our children and exclamations of, "this is the best day of my life!" With the help of Mrs Priestley and Mrs Moon we had **Paramedic Jon** with us today with his ambulance and the children found out about emergencies and what ambulances do. What a joy it is to welcome people back into our school to do such exciting things.



Take care,

Paula Bliss (Headteacher)

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

INSET days – Wednesday 1st Sept, 22nd October, 4th January 2022, 21st February 2021,
Friday 22nd July.
Thursday 21st July is our additional holiday in lieu of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

DATES – SPRING TERM 2022

Term dates – Tuesday, 4th January 2022– Friday, 1st April 2022

Half term dates – Monday 14th – Friday 18th February

INSET Day 4th January 2022

INSET Day – 21st February 2022

Diary Dates for Spring Term

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|-----------------|--|
| 04.01.22 | INSET Day |
| 05.01.22 | Back to School |
| 03.02.22 | Phonics Forum for parents - “Phonics Screening Check – What you need to know to be successful!” 9am (Yr 1) |
| 07.02.22 | Multi -skills Sports event at the Ashcombe school – Year 1 |
| 11.02.22 | Break up for half term |
| 21.02.22 | INSET Day |
| 22.02.22 | Back to School |
| 24.02.22 | SATS Talk – Yr 2 (5pm via Zoom) |
| 03.03.22 | World Book Day – Children dress as their favourite book character |
| 09.03.22 | Late Parents’ Evening (5.30-8.00pm) |
| 16.03.22 | Early Parents’ Evening (3.30-6.00pm) |
| 25.03.22 | Mothers’ Day Tea Party for Yr R 9am in School Hall |
| 31.03.22 | Easter Service - 2pm, all parents welcome |
| 01.04.22 | Easter Bonnet Parade directly after bell, parents to Hall. Wear your hats! |
| 01.04.22 | Last Day of Term – Break up at 2pm |
| 19.04.22 | Back to School – Summer Term |



In God’s Hands We Learn and Grow