

# Pegswood Primary School News

<http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

Issue 12



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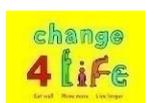
We hope the latest newsletter finds you well. I am sure you are aware that the government announced in mid-week that schools will remain open to only those children of Key Workers or those deemed vulnerable until at least March 8<sup>th</sup>. This is not the news that any of us wanted to hear. We will continue with the models of remote learning we currently have in place. Teachers will be constantly refining and adapting to this new style of teaching.

Once again, we reach out from school with huge thanks for all your work and involvement. Last week we had over 98% contact with the school community. There will be times when you might feel that all of this is too much; that you can't help your little one (no matter how old) or that you simply don't understand because it's different to how you were taught it. You might be worried about how your child is coping in the current climate. You are not alone and we do understand because we are parents too and are dealing with our own children - young and old - at home. There are times when we struggle with everything going on in school and at home! Everybody copes in different ways, but we are all in this together. Staff have been asked to learn new ways of teaching in an incredibly short amount of time. Sometimes things won't always go as they intended. A file might not be in the right folder. Technology might decide not to work! The internet might decide that it needs a rest! It is as frustrating for us as it is for you and mistakes happen!

However, if we look beyond all of the above, I am so pleased and proud of how well the children have responded to new technologies and different ways of working (we know this because of the work being uploaded or being handed back into school), the ways you as parents/carers are supporting your children and the way in which staff have adapted and are delivering what they are. We are a community that is once again, pulling together and making the best of a very challenging situation. I do know that staff have appreciated any kind comments that you have made and if you haven't let them know, a quick message to say this would make their day I'm sure.

Once again, please do get in touch with your child's teacher if you are struggling in any way with the device you have at home. If the only device you have at home that can access the internet for remote learning is a phone, again, please contact your child's teacher, in order for us to see if there is anything we can help with.

We have added a 'wellbeing' section to our school website with ideas of things to do for children and adults. There are also links to other services during this current time.



## Testing for school staff

As from this week, all school staff are testing themselves twice weekly. This has been introduced into all Primary Schools with the sole purpose of identifying those adults who are asymptomatic – they may have coronavirus, but show no symptoms – in a bid to stop the disease spreading.

At the moment this will have very little effect on school as we should be able to cover staff if they test positive with reduced numbers of children in school. However, once school is open fully to all pupils, the following instructions will come into place, much the same as we have had in place for testing since September.

- If a staff member tests positive using the home test (Lateral Flow), they must book a test at a test centre to confirm the result.
- Close contacts will be identified from the previous 48 hours – these will be adults and children and may mean the whole class bubble will need to isolate.
- If the subsequent test that the member of staff takes at a centre (a PCR test) returns as positive, the identified close contacts continue to isolate.
- If the PCR test returns as negative, this overrides the lateral Flow test and isolation can end.

We will obviously communicate this to you as and when needed. Should members of staff feel unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus, they will be booking a PCR test as normal.

I would like to reiterate that this test is for staff only and is being completed at home and not in school.

Take care.

