

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

18th December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Well, what a term that has been! As well as many challenges, there have been a plethora of things to celebrate: almost all of our classes have been in school for the full term, we have managed two classes working remotely and we have still carried on with the Christmas festivities with the usual Newchurch gusto!

We hope you have enjoyed the virtual Christmas assemblies we have put together. The staff have worked tirelessly to make sure the Christmas experience for the children has been the best it could possibly be under the circumstances, often working late at night to edit the videos so the three or four minutes of performance is the best it can be before sharing it with you. What has been lovely to see is the way in which you have been able to share the assemblies with your loved ones further afield, widening our Newchurch family.

With all the excitement, it is easy to forget there is a pandemic going on but this is something that we must not forget as we commence the Christmas holidays. Therefore, here is some information we would like to share.

Contract tracing over the Christmas period

If your child becomes symptomatic or tests positive **more than 48 hours** since being in school, there is no need to contact us. Instead, you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Up until Christmas Eve, if your child tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, we are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as your child may have been infectious whilst in school. If this is the case, please can you contact school via email using the following email address: newchurch_primary_head@warrington.gov.uk This is the head's email and will be checked at intervals during the six days following the end of term. Please leave the following information:

- Your child's name, date of birth and class
- Your postcode
- When the symptoms started, or the date of the test if asymptomatic



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- When your child was last in school

If your child needs to isolate as a result of a positive case being identified, we will contact you in line with the school's procedure set out in the contingency plan which can be found on the school's website. There is no need to notify us if another household member, including siblings not attending Newchurch, test positive.

Keeping to the restrictions in place

As we have come to the end of the Autumn Term, we have been asked by the Local Authority, Public Health and the Department of Education, to encourage parents and pupils not to mix outside of school over the Christmas break. Even if pupils are part of the same school bubble during term time, they must not meet outside of school or education settings when indoors (unless part of a support bubble) and must follow the 'rule of six' outdoors. Unfortunately, we are still being informed of children in the same class having sleepovers with up to three other friends.

Just because the children are in the same class, does not mean they can mix in each their houses. There are strict guidelines and restrictions we are following in school which allows for the children to mix. Socialising in groups also increases the risk of young people catching the virus but being asymptomatic, and therefore unknowingly passing on the virus on to elderly and vulnerable family members during the Christmas period.

We understand this is a difficult time for young people and they might not be celebrating Christmas with their friends as they normally would. However, please continue to take advantage of technology instead of meeting in person. Connecting regularly with friends and loved ones online, or over the phone, will help their mental health and wellbeing as well as minimising the risk of more coronavirus cases in Warrington.

Government considering delaying start of school term after Christmas

As you may be aware, there is speculation that there are plans for a potential delayed start back to school after Christmas amid concern about the spread of COVID-19. This is for secondary schools and as far as Newchurch is concerned, we will be welcoming the children back with open arms on Monday 4th January 2021 unless we are advised to do otherwise.

Reflecting on 2020, it has amazed us just how much change and uncertainty there has been. Yet as a family, Newchurch has pulled together to ensure our Newchurch robins continue to get the best school experience we can give them. This is only achieved with the dedication of the staff, governors and the children in conjunction with the strong partnerships with you as parents. For this we are very grateful.

Wishing you all a safe, fun-filled Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

With kindest regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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