

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

18th June 2021

Dear parent/carers,

We have heard about some schools and colleges in Warrington who are experiencing an increase in the number of COVID cases in their settings. Thank you for all those families who continue to follow the rules when dropping off and collecting their children and also outside of school. Our main aim is to get to the end of the school year without any of our classes having to isolate as we all know the benefits of the children being in school and the challenges of home schooling.

With the end of the school year fast approaching, please could we ask that you keep an eye on letters coming out which will have lots of detail regarding reports, transition days, communication with parents regarding special needs etc. which we will be working on prior to the end of the term.

Sports Day Update

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister regarding the delay to the lifting of restrictions and the guidance we have received, we are now in a position to confirm that our timetabled sports days will go ahead – but with a difference!

As you can appreciate, opening up to spectators and increasing the footfall on the school premises is a risk and we need to take a considered and safe approach to this event. The guidance states the following:

'Sports days can go ahead. In line with the rest of the systems of controls, pupils and students must remain in their bubbles, and early years children should remain in their consistent groups as is usual for your setting. Sports equipment should be regularly cleaned throughout the event.'

'Spectators must adhere to current social distancing requirements. Where events take place outdoors, spectators can gather in separate groups of up to 30 – the legal gathering limit. Multiple groups of 30 are permitted.'

In order to adhere to the guidance, we will have a staggered start and finish to the sports day with a carousel of the sporting events to watch around the school field thus allowing for social distancing of



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spectators. We will be providing you with a comprehensive plan of timings and the structure of the event nearer the time but just wanted you to know it was going ahead so you could save the date.

Just to remind you, the dates for Sports Day are as follows:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	Year 3 and Year 4	Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 9 th July - afternoon	Monday 12 th July - morning	Monday 12 th July - afternoon

In order to meet with the guidance, unfortunately we must ask that only **one** adult per child attend the sports day event and we are unable to welcome younger siblings on this occasion. We are sure you know this is not how we would like to organise sports day (we will miss the parents' race and toddler race) but hope you understand the need for these safety measures to mitigate the risks of the spread of the virus.

Belongings from home



Since the return to school, we have seen an increase in the number of children bringing in personal belongings from home. These have included soft toys and the fidget toys depicted above. As you can appreciate (and as our risk assessment indicates) we need to ensure that opportunities for the virus to come into school needs to be mitigated. Fidget toys are to support children in concentrating when they are trying to learn; however, we are observing children who are actually using them and concentrating on 'playing' rather than working.

As a school we promote the use of sensory items e.g. chew toys, putty etc. to support children who have issues around concentration and some children do have such items as part of an agreed approach to support their individual needs. The school will provide the children with these should they be needed and therefore do not need to be brought into school from home unless this has been agreed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (myself, Mr Duckett, Mrs Conreen, Mr Singleton or Mrs Sizer) who will then liaise with the class teacher and any other staff who work in your child.

Across all schools we are seeing an increase in children struggling with anxiety. If you have any concerns regarding your child's level of anxiety, please feel free to make an appointment to speak with either myself, Mr Duckett or Mrs Conreen and we will look at ways to support them both in school and through consultation with external agencies if needed. In addition, our Health and Wellbeing tab on the school website shares a number of resources you could use.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



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Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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Committed to Inclusion
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