

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

10th December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As we approach the final week of the school year, we would like to share with you some guidance we have received this week and also the plans for the Christmas festivities. Here we go...

Suggested changes to the school calendar

On Tuesday, the Department of Education (DfE) recognised the work of school staff (and other children's services) since September. We are sure that you agree that the staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the children's return to school in September has been successful; however, the children have made it all worthwhile with their resilience and sense of determination to succeed.

The DfE have provided schools with end of term advice which states: 'To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18th December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online'. The advice continues stating that 'teaching time must be made up at another point in the academic year.'

Following discussions with our Chair of Governors, we have decided **not** to close on Friday 18th December and maintain the school calendar we have set for the year. We have chosen to remain open as we acknowledge that any changes with such late notice would impact on many of our working parents resulting in childcare issues. In addition to this, the Christmas festivities planned for the children on the last Friday of the term would be disrupted and the children have worked so hard this term and deserve a treat. I'm sure you agree!

What if my child tests positive for COVID-19 after Friday 18th December?

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,



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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.

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.

Christmas festivities!

There is a lot going on before we get to the Christmas holidays so we have collated it all in a calendar of events from now until Friday 18th November.

Thursday 10 th December (Today)	Our decorated Christmas Tree will be put up in Newchurch Parish Church for visitors to see over the Christmas and New Year. The theme of our tree this year is 'A million dreams'. As we have had such a challenging year, the children have written their hopes and dreams for the future as decorations. We will post a picture on the twitter for you to see - @NewchurchCP
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Dress Down Day in exchange for bringing in a selection box or something for the Warrington Foodbank. Brown paper bags will also be sent home for the children to decorate and fill with sweets and a drink for their party.
Monday 14 th December	Newchurch Elf Mail collection day. Any children wishing to send Christmas cards to their friends can bring them in on this day and we will quarantine them for 72 hours before distributing them. Christmas door decoration competition takes place and the winning class will be announced.
Tuesday 15 th December	The children will be writing messages to the residents of Holcroft Grange which will be delivered to them ahead of Christmas to bring a festive smile to their faces and know the children of Newchurch care.
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper/Hat Day again as we will be having Christmas dinner on this day. In the afternoon, we do believe that snow will be falling (according to the magical Newchurch weather vane) and a certain special visitor will be arriving at Newchurch. Who might that be?
Thursday 17 th December	Elf Mail delivery – cards will be delivered to the different classes. Fingers crossed, our Christmas assembly video will be posted on Google Classroom for you all to share.
Friday 18 th December	It's Christmas party day! Christmas jumper, party hats, party clothes...basically anything but school uniform can be worn. We have arranged a pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk in the



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	<p>morning which will be streamed to all the classes. Treats will be provided by school and fun will be had by all. Don't worry... if your child is isolating or off sick, we will send the link to you so they can join in.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the children will have their class parties. Children can bring their party bags in for the occasion. It may just be a late night on this night with all the sugar and excitement – sorry!</p>
Christmas Eve	<p>At 6pm, all families are invited to go outside and ring a bell as a sign of togetherness and also recognise that we have been part of History this year. Please send us your photographs (newchurch_primary_head@warrington.gov.uk) and we will share them with our wider Newchurch family via social media.</p>

Some parents have asked about gifts to staff. Although this is not expected, if you would like to give a member of staff a Christmas gift, this is allowed and will be quarantined accordingly.

For those of you who have been members of the Newchurch Family for a number of years, we are sure that you are missing the amazing Christmas productions and the assembly we do every year - we are missing it too! To the families of our newest Newchurch robins, just wait until you experience a real Newchurch Christmas – something to really look forward to!

Take care and keep safe!

With kindest regards,



Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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