



March 2021

Newsletter 18 – 26.3.21

COVID-19 UPDATES

LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTS

We have had several discussions with families this week about the use of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests and so we would like to clarify the information around their use and limitations.



Like staff in school, many of you are now self-testing for COVID-19 at home using LFDs because you are key workers or cannot work from home. Adults are also eligible to LFD tests if they are parents or carers of school aged children.

While LFDs are very useful in identifying cases in people who are asymptomatic (do not have any COVID symptoms), they are not as accurate as a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. PCR tests are those which are available at a test centre or through the post but are analysed in a lab and the results sent to you about 24 hours later.

Regular use of LFDs in asymptomatic people will, in most cases, identify people who are unknowingly infected and so can help stop transmission. However, LFD tests will not pick up every positive case and so a negative result cannot be relied upon to rule out COVID-19 infection. Therefore, if you or anyone in your household has any symptoms of COVID-19, you will still need to book a PCR test through a test centre and then wait for the result to be sent to you. This is the same for the staff at work, we are all self-testing with LFDs twice a week, but if we have symptoms, we must book a PCR test and wait for the result, regardless of what the LFD test tells us. We are also maintaining all of the other measures which are in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 as these continue to be crucial in keeping everyone safe.

Please continue to follow school's previous advice regarding symptoms and testing and do not use LFD tests for anyone who is symptomatic. If you are in doubt, please contact us and we will do our best to advise you. We appreciate that the COVID-19 information has now reached 'overload'! Your support in trying to follow advice and support our school continues to be greatly appreciated, thank you.

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme.

PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

We are advising that primary-aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child.

Department for Education 25.3.21

Please note that home learning will only be provided when a child is absent for covid related absences and if they are well enough to complete it. Please be reassured that we would never expect children to complete work at home if they are too poorly to come to school.



★ ★ ★
Woo hoo!
Well done
Hooray!

brought about by the pandemic. We are so proud of all that we have achieved over the course of this academic year and of our wonderful children and staff.

You will, this afternoon, receive teacher notes prior to Parent Teacher Consultations next week. We would be grateful if parents and carers of Reception – Year 4 children, who were not in school during lockdown, could complete the first box on the sheet in advance of your meeting please, as this will be the focus of the first part of the conversation with staff. Thank you in advance.

Class teachers will be talking to you about whether your child is currently:

- Working Towards Age Related Expectations (or working in a year group below)
- Meeting Age Related Expectations
- Exceeding Age Related Expectations



Please remember these are expectations for the end of the academic year and we are only 2/3 of the way through the year - most children will be working towards age related expectations at this stage.



As you will appreciate, as part of our response to the covid pandemic, we temporarily increased the number of support staff in school to support each bubble. I would like to thank these additional staff for all their hard work during a difficult time. The increased support has enabled the children to make a positive return to school and we will revert to our pre-covid staffing levels. This will mean that Years 1 and 2 will have Mrs Armstrong, as will Years 3 and 4 (Miss Fitzgerald). Reception's Mrs Norman will move from there next door to Nursery and Mrs Norman will join Reception. Miss Willett will continue to cover staff preparation time each afternoon, across the school.

As Mrs Brown moves on to pastures new, we would like to thank her for all she has given to the school over the last 18 months and we wish her all the very best in the future.

Please remember that if your child requires breakfast at Breakfast Club they must arrive before 8:15am. After this time children will not be given breakfast at school. Miss Fitzgerald will, after Easter, be supporting Mrs Battista in Breakfast Club.

We continue to mark Lent in school in RE, Worship and through ongoing discussions. It has been fantastic to see the wide range of activities undertaken and depth of understanding demonstrated in school!





WORSHIP

GST

Raring2go! Spring 2021 Magazine

Easter fun
What's on
Holiday Clubs
Classes
Places to go
Competitions

#gotoguide

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There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public. <https://nccportal.newcastle.gov.uk/forms/referral/public>

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



FREE Bikeability Cycle Training Easter 2021

Have you not yet mastered how to ride a bike?
Do you want to improve your cycling confidence off road?
There's a training session for you!

This half term we will be offering FREE Learn to ride and Level 1 Bikeability training to children and adults who live, work or study within Newcastle.

All training is delivered following the governments Covid-19 guidelines and delivered by qualified National Standard Instructors who have DBS checks.

Learn to ride session – This course is a 2hr session and is designed for anyone who has yet to master pedalling alone without stabilisers. (6yrs+)


Tuesday 13th April (10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm)
Tuesday 20th April (10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm)

Level 1 – Designed to develop basic cycle training skills in a safe traffic free environment through fun and games activities. Riders must be able to cycle (i.e. pedal and glide) to participate in Bikeability Level 1.

Wednesday 14th April (10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm)
Wednesday 21st April (10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm)

All training will be delivered outdoors at Walker Activity Dome, Wharrier Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 3BR. The centre will be closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

To book please e-mail road.safety@newcastle.gov.uk to book your place or for further information.
(Booking is essential due to limited numbers and social distancing)

 Find our page on Facebook at 'Newcastle City Councils Road Safety & Bikeability Training'



“Love to learn, learn to love”

Please note that all activities in school are for children and staff only at this time.

March 2021			
Monday 29 th March	Y2 Leading Palm Sunday Worship for other classes (children only)		
29/30 th March	Parents' Evening (phone calls) as booked via ParentMail		Families of children on the SEN register are welcome to make an appointment but do not need to.
April 2021			
Thursday 1 st April	Maundy Thursday Service hosted by Gosforth, All Saints (via Teams) for children and staff		
2-16 th April	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 19 th April	Staff Training Day		School closed to children
Wednesday 21 st – Thursday 22 nd April 2021	Y4 Residential		Cancelled due to government restrictions. Refunds are currently being processed.
May 2021			
Monday 3 rd May	Bank holiday		School closed to children
Friday 14 th May	Year 1 Christian Aid Worship for children and staff		
Tuesday 18 th May	Year 4 virtual visit to The Sill (in school)		Voluntary payments will be requested in due course.
Friday 21 st May	Year 3 Pentecost Worship for children and staff		
Friday 28 th May	Year 4 Trinity Worship for children and staff		
Sunday 23 rd May	Children's Cancer Run		Cancelled by organisation.
June 2021			
31 st May - 4 th June	Half term		
Wednesday 30 th June	Year 4 virtual visit to Segedunum (in school)		Voluntary payments will be requested in due course.
July 2021			
Friday 23 rd July	School closes for summer		
September 2021			
Monday 6 th September	Staff Training Day		School closed to children
Tuesday 7 th September	Children back to school		
October 2021			
25-29 th October	Half term		School closed to children
November 2021			
Monday 1 st November	Staff training day		School closed to children
December 2021			
20-31 st December	Christmas holidays		School closed to children
January 2022			
Monday 3 rd January	Bank holiday		School closed to children

Friday 28 th January	Staff training day		School closed to children
February 2022			
21-25 th February	Half term		School closed to children
March 2022			
April 2022			
11-22 nd April	Easter holiday		School closed to children