

March 2021 Newsletter 18 – 26.3.21

COVID-19 UPDATES LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTS

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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 <u>guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection</u> and <u>book a PCR test</u> for the child.

Department for Education 25.3.21

HOME LEARNING

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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.



SCHOOL MONITORING



This week, we have been visited by our School Improvement Partner who was blown away by the quality of children's home learning books and of their work in school. Well done everyone! She was particularly pleased with how well the school has continued to develop, despite the challenges



Parents Evening

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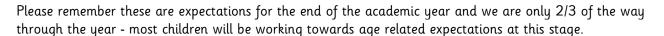
brought about by the pandemic. We are so proud of all that we have achieved over the course of this academic year and of our wonderful children and staff.

PARENTS' EVENING

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





STAFFING UPDATE

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. After Easter, we will revert to our pre-covid staffing levels. This will mean that Years 1 and 2 will share a Teaching Assistant (Mrs Armstrong), as will Years 3 and 4 (Miss Fitzgerald). Reception's Mrs Armstrong will move from there next door to Nursery and Mrs Norman will join Reception. Miss Willett will revert to her usual role, covering 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.

BREAKFAST CLUB

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!



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ALL STARS

We would be grateful if parents of children on the All Stars list could look out for the next All Stars Bible Club email today (if you don't see it by the afternoon please check your junk mail). Thank you.

WORSHIP

As Open the Book are currently unable to lead worship, they have brought each child in school a book, which will come home in book bags tonight.



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GST

Archibald First School has a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisory assistant in school, Monday to Friday for 1.5 hours per day (link below). https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Midday_Supervisory_Assistant/204624

GST staff training days have now been agreed for next academic year, as follows:

- Monday 6th September 2021
- Monday 1st November 2021
- Friday 28th January 2022 (please note, this is mid-term and not attached to a school holiday)



CHARITABLE GIVING

Thank you to everyone who donated for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. We raised £78.00. It was great seeing the sea of red and the range of this year's red noses!



RARING TO GO!

The Raring2go! Spring magazine is now available http://bit.ly/Raring2goSpring21

It is full of great things for families to do this Easter and beyond. There are places to go (who would have thought!) and plenty of fun activities plus news of some clubs and classes that are getting back up and running.



BUILDING WORK

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has access to a mini-digger in order to potentially help with landscaping our entrance to school! Thank you in advance!



SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey and Mr Booth are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders. We know how challenging a time it is right now as we have dealt with a number of safeguarding incidents since returning after half-term. Please ensure that you continue to note, read and understand this information so that we can all be prepared for situations, especially right now.

If you have concerns about a child, please contact one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police.

Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- Initial Response Service 0191 277 2500
- Northumbria Police 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000



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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

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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.

<u>Learn to ride session</u> – 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)

<u>Level 1</u> – 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.

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

facebook Find our p

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

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"Love to learn, learn to love"

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

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other classes (children only) 29/30th March Parents' Evening (phone calls) as booked via ParentMail Parents' Evening (phone calls) as booked via ParentMail ParentMa	
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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

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