



NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER
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5th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family had a restful and happy Christmas holiday.

Following the two Welsh Government planning days at the start of term, I can confirm that we will be open to all pupils for classroom teaching as usual from tomorrow, Thursday 6th January. Pupils should arrive by 8.25am as usual.

Our planning over the last two days has been designed to ensure we can stay open to all pupils if we face significant staff absence as a result of Covid, as well as to prepare a contingency plan if this is not possible. Whilst we now have a strong plan in place, I hope we do not need it and that we can stay fully open for classroom learning throughout the term. We will review this on a daily basis - if it changes, I will inform you with as much notice as possible.

Please pay close attention to the following points:

- Many of our current safety measures will remain the same eg. masks being worn in classrooms and around the school building, a one-way system, increased ventilation, hand-gel, a split lunch to lessen congestion in the canteen etc. These will be further reminded to pupils from tomorrow, and I would ask that you reinforce them before they return to school – especially the use of a face mask.
- There will be some further changes, for example increased spacing in some areas, changes to some extra-curricular clubs (though we will aim for all of these to continue in as normal a way as possible) and increased LFT testing for pupils and staff (see below).
- We request that all pupils now use LFT tests three times a week before school (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). Tests can be supplied from the school office or your local pharmacy. If your child tests positive, or there is a positive case in your household, please follow the guidance below.
- Parents' Evenings will continue to be online, and on-site visitors are discouraged except for urgent situations.
- Examinations will continue to run as planned, with some safety mitigations in place.

Testing and self-isolation guidance

- We request that all pupils take three LFT tests a week, before school. Any pupil who has a positive LFT test, or has any of the three main Covid symptoms, should isolate and book a PCR test.
- For any pupil who tests positive on a PCR, the isolation period has reduced from 10 to 7 days – provided 2 negative LFTs are recorded on days 6 and 7. If either of the LFTs taken on day 6 or day 7 is positive, they should remain in self-isolation until they have 2 negative LFTs or day 10 (whichever is sooner). Full details are here: <https://gov.wales/self-isolation>

- Any children aged 5 to 17 years old (as well as vaccinated adults) identified as a close contact of a positive case should take lateral flow tests (LFTs) every day for 7 days. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'. Tests should be taken before they arrive at school each day. They do not need to self-isolate unless they have a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms. In either of these cases, they should self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible. This advice includes where there is a positive case within the household ie. if a parent or sibling has tested positive, a child without symptoms can continue to come to school provided their LFT results are negative.
- Full details of all requirements are here: <https://gov.wales/self-isolation>

We all look forward to seeing the pupils back on site tomorrow. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Progress Leader or via the front office (email address above).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Thompson' with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr. A. Thompson
Headteacher