

NORTH NEWTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE"

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Dear Parents

End of Week 4!

2 weeks until Half-Term.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests, Half-Term & Possible return date...

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing Kit – For Staff Working in School

Key information for those sending children into school during the week.

We have now begun our twice weekly LFD testing kits. So far, all negative results! For your information, we are testing on Sundays (morning) and Wednesdays (after school).

You may be aware that 3 days ago, the DfE suspended the need for Secondary Schools and Colleges to take a confirmation Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test (at a centre) if a positive LFD was received - they have decided that the LFD is sufficient.

However, for Primary staff, this is not the case because we are *'taking the test at home'* (DfE guidance).

Therefore, if a member of staff shows a **positive LFD**, the whole bubble must immediately isolate. The staff member must then go for a **PCR at a testing centre**. The result will hopefully return in 2-3 days.

If **negative**, you will be informed, and everyone can return as normal. However, if **positive**, the whole bubble will have to isolate for **10 days from the LFD test**. Hope that makes sense.

Half Term – Full School Closure

It has been confirmed all schools will be fully closed over half-term (15th – 19th February).

Home Learning will only consist of the usual reading and mental maths, please.

Those entitled to the Food Hampers can collect theirs after 11am on Thursday 11th February. The Edenred voucher scheme does not incorporate the half term week, hence the Food Hampers.

Schools to fully reopen from Monday 8th March

The Government has decided the return date to be 8th March at the earliest.

Further details will be announced after half-term – once we have received further guidance.

Home Learning Provision

Last week, provision within school was shared outline how the school day compared to those at home. This week, I thought it would be helpful to provide a brief overview to highlight how each class is working. As we have two year groups in each class (apart from Hedgehogs) and large ability ranges, we have adopted effective platforms. Many children have older siblings at Secondary School and their constant requirement for a device can cause household strains. Our Home Learning Offer can be found on our school website.

Hedgehogs Class

There is a weekly zoom call to check in – we appreciate a class zoom for 4 and 5-year-olds is a feat in itself! Hedgehogs are enjoying seeing each other and showing what they have been doing. ‘See-Saw’ – a media platform where lessons, work and short films can be easily uploaded for Mrs Crow and Mrs Adams to view and give verbal feedback to the activities completed.

There is a weekly timetable of tasks and activities provided which Mrs Crow feels will be useful and enjoyable for the children. Weekly phone calls are taking place and further support is being offered.

Foxes Class

There are 4 zoom calls each week – 2 for each year group. The ‘See-Saw’ platform is also being very well received; Mrs Tucker is enjoying seeing and commenting on the activities Foxes are doing at home. There is also the Foxes class email for private messages if support is required. There is also a class Facebook page, which is lovely to see, but many are preferring to use See-Saw which is brilliant.

The weekly timetable of work has been carefully devised by Mrs Tucker. Nessy Reading and Spelling programme is being used by those selected. Mrs Hughes is ensuring all spellings and mental maths are kept up to date, with some Sound Linkage Interventions also being run through zoom. Weekly phone calls are also taking place and further support is being offered.

Squirrels Class

There are 4 zoom calls each week – 2 for each year group. The class email is proving to be an excellent method of communication with Miss Moore and Mrs Stone. ‘Pictures and poems, Maths and MFL, Writing and Work’ are all being uploaded via the class email, as well as work is being posted on the class Facebook page. Again, many parents are preferring to upload work to the class email as opposed to Facebook – either is fine as long as we can see what they are doing.

Weekly phone calls by Miss Moore, Mrs Stone, Mrs Elson, Mrs Clark and Mr Arnold are made and further support is being offered if possible. Nessy Reading and Spelling programme is being used by those selected. The weekly timetable is carefully devised by Miss Moore and gives an appropriate range of work.

Badgers Class

There are 3 ‘whole class’ zoom calls, which aim to set the scene for the work for that day or two. The suggested timetable is refreshed every couple of days. The class email is being used extensively on a daily basis with parents uploading children’s work via this platform or via Facebook. Again, some preferring to share on one platform, and some the other. Mr Day, Mrs Elkington and Mrs Marsh are all enjoying seeing the work being posted.

Phone calls are being made to support Badgers with any questions / queries – this is open to all children, as well as welfare calls.

'Zoom Surgeries' are starting next week (twice a week) in addition to the 'whole class' zoom calls. Children can email with questions / queries – these are then dealt with either via a phone call, a written response or they will be able to join the zoom surgery. Badgers Class will have further information sent to them today. We are hoping these personal discussions and support mechanisms will be effective.

Live / Filmed Lessons

These have been discussed at great length. They can be an effective platform provided every child is able to access the learning at their level and are willing to contribute. However, with 2-year groups in each class, pitching lessons appropriately for all children limits its effectiveness (if a child does not understand a concept). For younger members, our zoom calls are working well. For Key Stage 2, we believe we are offering good support through individualised approach through emails and the zoom surgery (Badgers Class). For Squirrels, the provision planned is sufficient without the need for additional live lessons – Miss Moore and Mrs Stone are zooming and calling individually, thus addressing any issues in this way.

Are there any further suggestions which may help my child?

Children will have peers they tend to work with in Maths or English. By arranging paired or small group zooms with a very small number, this might help them to be more independent and less parent-driven? It might be successful for them to work with their friend 'beside them' with their work out in front of them? Why not try linking up – your child will know who they like work with.

If there are any further suggestions, in addition to these aspects we are providing, please email directly to office@nncps.org and we can discuss it.

Having recently spoken with Headteachers from our cluster of schools, there is a wide range of provision the different schools are providing – all determined by their cohort and class arrangements. I am very proud of what we are doing. Of course, for those locally working from home, if needed, please call the office or drop in to see a staff member whilst out on your walk if you have further questions.



Hope you have a good weekend

Kind regards

Nick Arnold
Headteacher