

Pegswood Primary School News

<http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

Issue 15



Friday 14th January

Virtual School Games

In times before Covid, we would regularly take part in School Games events, with the winners from each of the six areas of Northumberland taking part in the School Games county finals. In the past, we have been very successful in having teams from our school representing Ashington and Coquet. In recent times, the School Games organisers across the county have learnt to operate in slightly different ways, offering schools virtual competitions.

During the autumn term, a series of multi skills competitions have been taking place during PE lessons, with each class submitting their results to our School Games Organiser. I am delighted to say that our Year 3, 4 and 5 children managed to be one of the winners in their competitions against schools in our Ashington and Coquet area and so Year 3 and 4 have been representing our area in the county finals – all completed virtually from our own school hall.

Year 3s competition was this morning and Year 4s competition was this afternoon. Both classes had a series of multi skills events to compete in and their class scores were submitted to the organisers. All the children performed brilliantly during the morning and afternoon. Well done. Year 5s competition is next Friday morning.

Extra Bank Holiday.

You may be aware that there is an extra bank holiday this year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The actual bank holiday falls within our May half term, so all schools have been granted permission to create an extra day, outside of the half term for this day. As a partnership, we have decided that we will take this day on Monday 6 June.

Covid testing

There has been new guidance issued again regarding isolation periods.

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after five full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.



Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Can we please also remind you that if anyone in your household tests positive for Covid, the whole household, including all children over 5, should be taking a lateral flows each day and only come to school if they have done this and it is negative.

This week we have had eight children test positive within school (Nursery, Year 2, 4 and 6). We currently have no staff, who have tested positive. However, this situation could change very quickly and with little warning. The staff who were positive are now back in school.

Parents'/Carers' Evening

We have taken the decision to hold this via phone calls again. Some classes will be before half term and some after. We will be sending out a sign-up sheet for you to choose a convenient time to receive the phone call, via a link, in the same way as we did in the autumn term. You will receive a separate call for each child and this is likely to be on different nights as we have only two outgoing phone lines. Please ensure that you notify the school office as soon as you can if you need to update school about your phone number. You will be notified of the dates for the consultations shortly.

Free School Meals

If you feel that your circumstances have changed regarding employment or anything else and you now believe you may qualify for Free School Meals, please look at the advice below and follow the link to see. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2022. **Free school meals covers school meals, milk and Northumberland County Council food vouchers during the holidays.**

The application for Free School Meals is not referring to the Universal Free School Meals that were available to all children from Reception to Year 2.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Nursery places

If you have a child who is 18 months or older and you would like to be considered for a place in our Nursery, please ensure that you have filled in an admission form. These are available from the school office.

Reading Newsletter

Please find this week's reading newsletter – either on Class Dojo's school page or our website.

