

Pegswood Primary School News

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

Issue 14



Friday 7th January

We hope you had a wonderful holiday and a belated Happy New Year to you all. It may be a new year, but school is very much dominated by Covid matters still. The government have issued new guidelines this week and I would like to draw your attention to them, in case you have missed them.

- From Tuesday 11th January, those who do not have symptoms and have a positive lateral flow will still have to isolate but will no longer have to take a PCR test. If your child tests positive on a lateral flow, you must inform school immediately as well as reporting the positive result on the government website [here](#).
- The isolation period is for 10 days. However, from day 6 you may take a lateral flow test. If your child has two consecutive negative lateral flows, they may come back into school on day 7. **However, the lateral flows must be taken 24 hours apart.** They cannot be taken on the same day.
- If anyone in your household tests positive, all close contacts should take a lateral flow each day for 7 days. This refers to all children 5 and above and fully vaccinated adults. As long as your child's lateral flow is negative, even though they are a close contact, they can continue to come into school as long as they are displaying no symptoms.

We are aware of the difficulty in obtaining lateral flow kits. Unfortunately, school cannot provide any to families, as we are only able to order specific numbers depending on the number of staff that we have.

We currently have 9 children throughout the school who have tested positive and 3 members of school staff. I am expecting these numbers to rise in the coming weeks and there may be times when it will not be your child's usual teacher taking them, due to positive cases. This is something that we are unable to plan for and are really working on a day-to-day basis, with the belief that anyone could test positive at any time. This is far from the ideal way to work, but is the environment in which we find ourselves. We will do everything we can to keep school operating as normal as possible for as long as possible. However, we may be forced to the point of closing a class on a short-term basis, if we have no alternative due to staffing constraints. This would be our very last resort.

Mrs Norvell

Year 5 and 6 have certainly missed Mrs Norvell working with them on a daily basis. Unfortunately, Mrs Norvell has been unable to come into school since the summer holidays due to being diagnosed with breast cancer. After surgery in the autumn term, she is set to embark on the next stage of her treatment. We would all like to wish her good luck with this next stage of treatment and hope to see her smiling face back in school when it is all over.



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>

School Admissions

If your child is currently in Nursery, admissions is currently open to apply for a place in our Reception class for September 2022. The closing date for this is January 15th – in one week's time. If you wish to have a place at Pegswood Primary School, you must apply before this date. Please take 10 minutes to register online and apply for your place. If you do not, there is no guarantee you will be offered a place, even though you attend our Nursery. If you have any questions, please ask any of the Nursery team or our office. The link is below:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Reception-entry-applications.aspx>

Reading Newsletter

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

