



Chaddlewood Primary School

Inspiring a love of learning

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3rd January 2021

Return to school on the 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas break and we hope you had a restful holiday.

Some of you may be aware that there is an ongoing debate as to whether primary schools should return after the holidays, and their return delayed by two weeks, due to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases. As it stands, we are open and will be welcoming your children back into their bubbles as before on Tuesday 5th January. We are however increasing vigilance and tightening procedures to reduce the risk to our families and school community of catching Covid-19.

I am therefore asking:

- If your child has a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

then please DO NOT send them to school and have them tested for Covid-19.

If a member of your family tests positive for Covid-19 please let us know asap so your child can self-isolate at home.

If you approach a member of staff to speak to them at their classroom door or in Reception, please wear a mask.

We have also been advised that the new strain of Covid-19 can potentially be passed on at a greater distance than 2 metres so masks have become more essential than ever. Should you wish your child to wear a mask in class, please send them with one and we will support them in this.

All of the above measures are to slow down the spread of this new variant and to protect us all but especially the old and vulnerable so please work with us to do this.

We have had an indication that the mass 'lateral flow' testing that they are rolling out across secondary schools in the next 2 weeks, will be introduced into primary schools by the end of January, in order to identify asymptomatic children and staff. This is a mouth or nose swab test that gives a result within 10-30 minutes and schools will be asked to administer this test in school. This process would of course require parent permission and details will follow once we have had them from the DFE.

Can I assure you that, as ever, we have the best interests of our children, staff and school community at the heart of our decisions and will be following enhanced procedures on our return to school to continue to try and minimise the risks to us all. I will keep you fully informed as we move forward into what could be a challenging January.

Take care
Sarah King

