

Mrs N Gardner
Acting Headteacher

Mrs K Hankin
Acting Deputy Headteacher



4th February 2021

COVID Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools from **Monday 8th March**. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. Schools expect further guidance on this and we will inform you as soon as we know. Information is not shared with schools in advance and we have to work quickly to respond. This time, the government have promised to let schools and the public know 2 weeks before schools open so we can plan and ensure the transition back is safe and smooth.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire was shared with parents to find out views on remote learning. We hope you were able to complete this. We have already received many emails to thank teachers and staff for their hard work and for the school's approach to remote learning and we thank you for this, it really lifts our spirits. We miss the interactions and positive feedback at the gate in the morning and at the end of the school day and look forward to school returning to normal so we can see you all again.

Remote Learning and Safeguarding

Our remote learning offer continues to develop and we are delighted to be offering more Google meet sessions to some pupils either as 1-1 or in small groups in order to provide further support. Please be aware that these sessions will be recorded for safeguarding purposes. All recordings will be archived securely and will not be publicly accessible.

Requests for School Places

School is receiving an increase in requests for school places due to some children and families struggling with remote learning. Unfortunately, we cannot offer places to more families for this reason. In the spirit of protecting the NHS and stopping the spread of the virus, schools are only open for key worker children, vulnerable groups and nursery. We understand that remote learning can be difficult to manage, especially for this long, so please let us know how we can help.

Concerns about Missed Learning

We understand concerns about missed learning due to the long absence from school. We want to reassure you that we will pick up on children's learning when they come back to us. We know children's experiences at home will vary enormously so we will assess where children are at and plan accordingly. We hope that just 2 weeks after half term we will see all of our children return so we can continue their education in person. Our teachers are ready to do what they are best at and that is teaching children and responding to their needs with knowledge, care and understanding.

Our vision is to create a community of successful learners who feel confident, happy and safe and who show respect for themselves, each other and the environment.

Derwentwater Primary School, Shakespeare Road, Acton, W3 6SA

Tel: 020 8992 9296 / 020 8992 5710

Email: parentcomms@derwentwater.ealing.sch.uk



Mrs N Gardner
Acting Headteacher



Mrs K Hankin
Acting Deputy Headteacher



4th February 2021

Testing Staff at School and how this Effects Children in School

Last week, we started offering Lateral Flow Tests for staff at school. We have been asked to use these tests by the Department for Education. Our staff can choose to use them twice a week with the aim that it will help to identify any staff members who have the virus and are asymptomatic. This will help to reduce the risk of any infection spreading. These tests are useful and an important part of the government plan to control the virus but they are not as good as the swab (or PCR) tests that are available at testing centres. If a staff member tests positive with the lateral flow test, they will immediately isolate, but have to have a further PCR test to confirm the result.

If a staff member tests positive, we will inform you and close their bubble whilst we wait for the confirmation PCR test result. Currently, this will only affect key worker children, vulnerable groups and nursery children in attendance at school. We believe that this is the correct action to take to prioritise the safety of our children and their families. If the positive test is confirmed, all children in the bubble will have to remain at home for the isolation period as normal. All children self-isolating are able to access our remote learning offer. If the test returns as a negative result, the children will return to school at the earliest opportunity.

This is a new system and we may change our approach as we learn about how it works. I hope it will help us to reduce the risk to our community and keep us all safe in this challenging time.

If you have any questions, then please contact school via Parentcomms. Thank you again for your ongoing patience during such uncertain times. We are hoping that the vaccine roll out and longer lockdown will help towards opening schools with an increased confidence around safety. We look forward to the summer term being an opportunity for uninterrupted learning to take place at school.

Kind regards

Nikki Gardner
Acting Headteacher

Respect for themselves, each other and the environment.

Derwentwater Primary School, Shakespeare Road, Acton, W3 6SA

Tel: 020 8992 9296 / 020 8992 5710

Email: parentcomms@derwentwater.ealing.sch.uk

