



Meersbrook Bank Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs G. Harvey

Thursday 6th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good Christmas and were able to enjoy any plans you may have had. As we had feared, the new year has seen a significant rise in covid cases in the Sheffield region and we have been told to expect further disruption for the months ahead. This regional picture matches the numbers of families at our school who have tested positive in recent days.

We have returned to some measures which had been in place last year, primarily around enhanced cleaning, good ventilation and hand hygiene. We have spoken to the children about the importance of thorough hand-washing and would appreciate it if you could echo this message at home too. Please can children bring in a labelled water bottle which goes home daily. We do not have enough cups which we can thoroughly wash between sips! Only essential items should be brought into school (some younger children are experts at sneaking small toys out of the house!)

Although we are not currently expecting parents to wear face masks when collecting at the end of the day, if you do need to enter the school building, for example, when coming to the school office, please remember to wear a face mask.

We are keeping careful records of who has covid so that we can monitor whether there is an outbreak in a particular class. For this reason it is really useful to know dates of tests and onset of symptoms (where there are any.)

We know that many schools across the city are closing classes to try to manage the situation when there are many cases. If we need to do this, we will of course switch to remote learning by the next working day for any children who are at home who are well enough to engage with work, although we appreciate that not all will be feeling well. Equally we understand that if you are struggling with illness, you may not be able to support your child with online learning. We appreciate that you will be doing your best so please do not feel that there is pressure from us.

There may also be occasions when we need to combine part-classes together in order to keep our school open for as many children as possible. Our teachers will primarily be carrying out their normal face to face teaching so will not be available to speak to on demand, although we are working to give them additional time out of the classroom to manage the additional workload that remote learning presents.

If you need a device to access remote learning, please let us know if your child needs to self-isolate and we will ensure that you receive what you need as quickly as possible. We will be sending out remote learning login information to all children so that you have everything you need at the ready.

Please do not send your child to school if they are symptomatic. There are now seven symptoms to watch out for:

- High temperature
- New persistent cough
- Loss of taste and/or smell



- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Body aches/tiredness

This is exactly the time of year when colds and coughs are circulating which isn't helpful, but please do be cautious before sending children into school.

As you may have read in the media the rules are changing around test results. If anyone in your household tests positive using a lateral flow device, from 11th January, this will no longer need to be confirmed by a PCR test. If you do have a positive case in the household or have come into contact with anyone who has tested positive and intend to send your child to school we would encourage you to carry out a daily lateral flow test on them, in order to try to reduce the transmission of the virus in school and to protect our children and staff. Here is a link to find out where you can get lateral flow devices: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> You will also need a collect code. We have been told that it is currently there is limited availability of tests, so please do persevere.



NHS
Test and Trace

Free rapid lateral flow tests for people without symptoms of Covid-19

You need to bring along a **collect code** when you pick up your tests from a pharmacy.

You can get this:

- Online at gov.uk/get-collect-code
- By calling 119

nhs.uk/coronavirus

Children (and adults) who have tested positive are now able to shorten their period of self-isolation if they take two negative lateral flow tests on Day 6 and day 7. (The day of the swab or the onset of symptoms count as day zero). The new rules can be a little complicated. If you are unsure we will do our best to help you but we may need to seek advice and get back to you as we are also getting used to the new changes!

While we cannot promise a smooth term ahead, we can promise that we are committed to making sure we look after and educate your children as well as we possibly can, notwithstanding any snowy weather that may also get thrown at us!

Thank you so very much for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs G. Harvey