

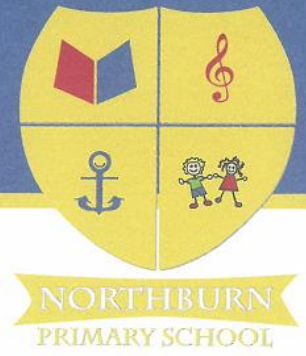
4.1.22

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope that you have all managed to have a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed the festivities.

I know that there will be some anxiety about the impact the Omicron variant may have on school. Our risk assessment is robust, and I have reviewed contingency plans. As we were already coping with increased cases across school, I was in contact with Public Health and our plans were rigorously reviewed. At this stage, there are no further mitigating actions I need to take. I have outlined the actions in place below:

- Phase groups (Nursery, Reception, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2) do not mix inside. As children are grouped for phonics, maths and English they can continue to work in these groups within their phase.
- Lunchtimes are staggered so that phases do not mix inside. We **are** able to provide hot meals.
- We have twelve CO2 monitors used across school. Windows are open to aid ventilation. So far, none of our monitors have registered concerning high CO2 levels that could not be rectified by increased ventilation. I am concerned that as temperatures drop, school could get quite cold. Children are allowed to wear additional layers under their uniform to keep warm.
- Children are to continue to come to school in their PE kit or old warm clothes on their PE or forest school days.
- Outdoor clubs can continue as usual.
- Indoor clubs can also continue but numbers may need to be reduced. This may mean children attend alternate weeks. Staff will let you know if this affects your child.
- Enhanced handwashing and cleaning routines will continue.
- Children **do not need to wear masks**. Staff will continue to wear masks in communal areas. For parents, wearing a mask in the playground is a personal choice. We do however ask that all visitors who need to enter the school wear a mask if they are able.
- We will continue to restrict visitors entering school. If you have an enquiry or need to pass on a message, please call school or email:
admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk
The school office is still open if you are unable to call or email us.



- If your child has a positive test for Covid-19, then remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to access it. If your child is absent for another reason, then remote learning will not be provided as it will be assumed that they are not well enough to be doing schoolwork.

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

(Copied from DfE website)

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day

NORTHBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

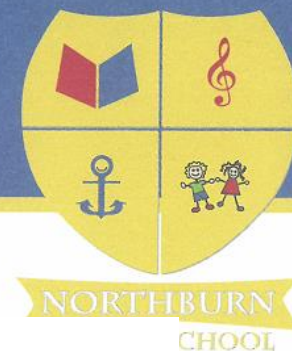
Horton Drive, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 3QS

Tel: 01670 739111

Email: admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

www.northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Scott



for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19 and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#)

At present, I have three members of teaching staff who are absent due to Covid-19. I have been able to access some supply teachers, but this is becoming increasingly difficult. Whenever possible, class teachers will continue to provide plans for staff who are covering lessons as this provides continuity and a shared expectation of quality. When staff are too unwell to plan lessons, colleagues have stepped in. I am very grateful that staff have been willing to take on this additional workload. If the staffing situation worsens then I will need to ask supply teachers to prepare lessons.

I will make it my priority to do all I can to enable your child to access face-to-face learning.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on the 5th of January 2022.

Best wishes,

Clare Scott