



St White's Primary School

Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope that everyone managed to have a wonderful and restful Christmas break. At school, we are all really excited to be able to welcome you all back on Thursday. As you probably know, the government have not issued any major changes in their advice for primary schools, so we will be continuing, as we were before the holidays, with our efforts to provide the best possible education for your children while we try and keep everyone safe in school.

Here are a few reminders:

- School attendance is mandatory unless there is an authorised reason for absence. I am sure that you agree with us that with all the disruption over the past two years it is more important than ever for children to be learning in school. While we continue to encourage parents to take a cautious approach to illness and covid symptoms, we will be following our usual procedures to support attendance, including issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absence including holidays.
- The guidance says that children no longer have to isolate if they are a contact or someone in their household tests positive. **The latest guidance says that household members, including children aged 5 and over, are advised to take daily LFD tests, and in the meantime, carry on as normal unless they have symptoms or receive a positive result.** Please do continue to inform us if this is your situation and make contact if you would like any advice.
- Updated guidance says that 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 school from day 8.

Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford,
Gloucestershire, GL14 3GD
Tel: 01594 822311
admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk
<http://www.st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk>
www.facebook.com/stwhitesprimary



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- I would like to reassure you that staff and children with the main symptoms (temperature, persistent cough and/or loss of taste/smell) should not attend school and will be asked to do PCR tests. If the symptoms start while in school, children/staff will be sent home until a PCR test has been completed.
- There will be no staggered starts or ends to the school. The gates will open at 8:30 and children will be expected in class before 8:50 when the gates are closed. School finishes for everyone at 3.15pm.
- We are asking parents to wear masks while on the school site, and to minimise contact with school staff by using email to pass on messages where possible. These can be sent to admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk or to each class by replacing "admin" with the class name. Parents are asked not to enter the school building, unless you have been invited for a meeting. You can use the intercoms to speak to office staff.
- We will continue to welcome visitors from outside agencies such as social workers, education specialists, counsellors and therapists to attend meetings with staff and pupils in school, but we are asking them to take a LFD test before coming in.
- Although the DfE have said there are no bubbles or restrictions to mixing of pupils, we are trying to keep children within their phases where possible, including at break and lunch times and to minimise staff moving between phases.
- Assemblies will continue to be held in phases for the moment, and we will not be inviting parents in for events until further notice.
- We are hoping to start after school clubs and morning booster groups in mid-January and more information will come to you shortly about these. (Climbing club starts on Wednesday 12th January and Swift Class swimming starts on Tuesday 11th January.)
- There is a detailed plan to ensure that the school can remain open for as long as possible called an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which has been updated and we will put on the website. If you have any comments about this, please do let us know.
- Remote education will be provided for children who are well and isolating because they have had a positive PCR test. This will comprise a catch-up with their teacher first thing, work being set and posted online and then a catch up just before lunch time. Unfortunately, as teachers will be teaching, they won't be able to provide live lessons.
- Our biggest concern is that if covid cases increase in the local area, this may lead to problems with staffing. While our wonderful staff will continue to be flexible and we will do everything we can to keep all classes open, parents should be aware that our plans to provide remote education are ready to go in case of class or phase closures.





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- It would be really helpful if parents would inform us of any children who tested positive for covid during the Christmas holiday period, even if your isolation period has ended before returning to school on Thursday so that we have an accurate idea of the impact on our families.

I hope this information helps. If you have any questions at all, please do give us a ring.

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday.

Kind regards

Clare Tilling
Headteacher



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