



Benwick Primary School

Newsletter No 13 – 22nd January 2020



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all well and staying safe. It been another busy week in school and at home – we are really enjoying seeing the home learning being sent in to school, teachers really want to be able to offer feedback and support as well as praise, so please keep it coming in. Staff are also nominating children at home, as well as in school for Friday certificates (posted out to children at home!)

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff

Next week we hope to begin our asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in school, once our testing kits arrive. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to keep our school as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools. Staff participating will test at home twice a week, in the evening, using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests which have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. If a positive test result is received, staff will book a PCR test and the bubble they will work in will be closed until the results of the PCR test, if this test is also positive then the bubble will remain closed with all children/close contacts needing to isolate for 10 days (from the initial test), if it is negative the bubble will re-open. If a bubble does need to be closed we will contact you with as much notice as possible with more information.

Staffing:

We are extremely short staffed at the moment, particularly in Owls Monday to Wednesday and we are operating bubbles on the minimum safe levels in some cases. We ask families currently accessing provision as critical workers to only send their children in to school if you cannot safely keep them at home. Staff shortages could lead to bubbles closing, although rest assured this will be a last resort.

Positive Cases of Covid-19 Notifications:

For families where children have been in school - If your child should test positive for Covid-19 over the weekend, please let me know straight away. For this reason only, please text: **07570707587** as soon as possible to provide details, thank you.

I hope you all have restful weekend.

Best wishes, **Mrs Clare Talbot – Headteacher**

Diary Dates

Monday 15th February-Friday 19th February: Half-term Holiday

Friday 19th March: Red Nose Day

Monday 29th March-Friday 9th April: Easter Holiday

Monday 12th April: INSET Day – School Closed

Contact Us:



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www.benwick.cambs.sch.uk

At Benwick Primary School, we are fully committed to the safeguarding of pupils and take e-Safety very seriously. With the support of parents, we pro-actively teach our pupils how to keep themselves safe, including online.