



Pentrepoeth Primary School

Cwm Cwddy Drive, Rhiwderin Heights, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8JN

Tel: 01633 896101

Fax: 01633896367

E Mail: Pentrepoeth.primary@newportschools.wales

Website: www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Dean Taylor B.A.(Hons), P.G.C.E., L.P.S.H.

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Sarah Cook B.A.(Hons)

4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda - Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had an enjoyable Christmas break.

I can confirm that all children will return to school on Thursday 6th January for face-to-face learning.

There is an ongoing uncertainty regarding the impact of the latest COVID variant Omicron. At present, we are able to return to school as normal. We will monitor staffing situations closely in the next few weeks.

All the following measures that were in place during the Autumn Term will remain.

- Each class is a separate 'contact group'. I am hoping to review this at half term.
- Intervention groups are made up of children from the same class.
- There will be no whole school gatherings, eg. assemblies, lunch in the hall, etc.
- Extra-curricular clubs will not take place until further notice.
- Ensure robust hand and respiratory hygiene for children and staff.
- Ensure appropriate ventilation measures and cleaning regimes.
- Active engagement with TTP strategy <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect>.
- Introduce and maintain physical distancing, recognising that this may not be possible with younger learners.
- **There is a strict one-way system around the outside of the school building - we expect all parents to follow this one-way system.**
- **We encourage all adults to maintain physical distance and wear face coverings when on the school site, unless you are exempt for medical reasons.**
- There is **no** access to the school building to any parents, this includes access to toilet facilities in our reception area.



Breakfast Club

Under the 'very high level' there is a need to consider "**potentially pausing breakfast provision**". At Pentrepoeth, we will continue to offer Breakfast Club in the hall, **however, please only use Breakfast Club if you urgently require the provision**. We will keep the Breakfast Club provision under continued review, but please note that there is a possibility that we may need to pause this provision in the future, if cases continue to rise.

Remote Learning

We have plans in place should we need to move to remote learning. This will be a last resort option as we want to remain in school and teach children face-to-face for as long as possible. However we also need to be prepared in case staff absence reaches a position that we need to move to remote learning. If this situation occurs you will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

Reminder

Please ensure you keep your child at home if they display **ANY** of the following symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please advise us that you are keeping your child at home and arrange a PCR test. Please note that we cannot accept the results of a lateral flow test. If children are showing COVID symptoms, they **cannot** return to school unless a negative test result is given. We will need to have sight of the text or email you will receive with the negative result.

Please note that if your child is under the age of 5 years old they should not take COVID-19 tests unless directed to do so by a doctor or if you believe a test is absolutely necessary and in the best interests of your child. They should however remain off school whilst they have symptoms.

If we receive notification of a positive COVID-19 case we will follow the advice from TTP. If your child is deemed as a close contact then you will be informed. However there is no requirement for self-isolation for those who are double vaccinated or who are under the age of 18. We will continue to respond to any advice and guidance that is issued and appreciate your support in this.

IMPORTANT: There have been changes to the self-isolation guidance for both those who test positive for COVID and those who are close contacts. Please see information from the Welsh Government below.



As always, all decisions have been made with the wellbeing and safety of our school community as the main priority. The risk level will be kept under review and any subsequent changes will be communicated.

I am looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on Thursday and thank you for your continued co-operation and support at this time.

Stay safe and well.

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Dean Taylor
Headteacher

There have been changes to the self-isolation guidance for both those who test positive for COVID and those who are close contacts.

If your test result is positive

If the result is positive, you must self-isolate from the day your symptoms started and for at least 7 full days. If you test positive, your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day you had the test, if you do not have symptoms) and the next 7 full days. If you get symptoms while you're self-isolating, the 7 days restarts from the day after your symptoms started.

You can leave self-isolation after 7 full days (on day 8 of your self-isolation period). On day 6 of your self-isolation period you should take a LFT and another test 24 hours later.

When should I remain in self-isolation?

If either of the LFTs taken on day 6 or day 7 is positive, you should remain in self-isolation until 2 negative LFTs or day 10 whichever is sooner. A positive result indicates that you are likely to still be infectious and the risk of you passing on coronavirus to others is high. If the result of the LFT test you take on day 6 is positive, wait 24 hours before you take the next test.

If you still have a high temperature after 7 full days, even if the LFT is negative, you should continue to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal.

You do not need to continue self-isolating for more than 7 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks following a COVID-19 infection.

If you do not have symptoms, but you test positive



You may be advised to take a PCR or LFT if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19 (within the last 90 days) you should firstly take a LFT instead of a PCR. This is because there is a risk that a PCR test may detect residual traces of the virus leftover in your body.

If your test result is positive, you must self-isolate from the day of your test and for the next 7 days. As set out above, you should take LFTs on or after day 6 and 7 to check if you are still infectious before leaving self-isolation.

If your original positive result was from a LFT, you should also take a PCR test within 24 hours. This is important as it will allow genetic sequencing in a laboratory to identify any potential variants of concern.

Changes to self-isolation arrangements for those identified as contacts of a positive case

Arrangements on self-isolation have changed. All over 18s who are fully vaccinated (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine) and children aged 5 to 17 are now asked to take lateral flow tests (LFTs) every day for 7 days if they are identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'.

We recommend those undertaking Daily Contact Testing take their test before they arrive at school each day. These individuals do not need to self-isolate for that day unless they have a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms. In either of these cases, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.

Unvaccinated adults identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case must isolate for 7 days.

The position on children under 5 years old remains unchanged - they are not required to self-isolate or test as contacts.

Anyone identified as a contact, who is fully vaccinated or aged 5 to 17 can access daily contact testing instead of self-isolation, regardless of whether they are a household or close contact.

Primary and secondary staff and secondary age learners are advised to undertake LFD testing three times a week at present on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday using LFTs and record their results – this should continue. Where a member of staff becomes aware that they are a contact of a positive case via any means then they should undertake LFD testing for 7 days and then revert to testing 3 times a week as advised for education staff.

We do not recommend that people use PCR tests if they have been confirmed positive via a PCR test in the last 90 days.



Those aged 5-17 and fully vaccinated adults should still use the LFD tests for 7 days from when a household member has tested positive, even if they have previously had Covid in the last 90 days.

The 7 days of LFD testing should start from the day the household member tested positive (via PCR or LFD).

A close contact is anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:

- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a conversation within 1 metre
- skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
- contact within 1 metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- contact within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (as a one-off contact, or added up together over 1 day)
- travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

