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Education and Families
Head Teacher (Acting)
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Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you all had a relaxing Christmas break and you got to spend some precious time with family and friends. From all the staff at NMPS & Nursery we would like to wish you all a prosperous and peaceful New Year for 2022. We are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to School and Nursery on Monday 10 January 2022.

As we return to school/nursery you will be aware that Covid-19 is still very much with us and therefore we are following Government Guidance to reduce the risk of transmission in our School and Nursery.

Return to School - update as of 6 January 2022 – Scottish Government

There's are few new guidelines that should be followed, to help keep us all as safe as possible.

All staff at schools and early learning establishments are strongly advised to regularly take lateral flow tests prior to schools returning on Monday. This will include taking one this week and another on either Sunday evening or first thing on Monday morning and thereafter, twice a week.

Staff are advised to upload their test results to the online portal regardless if the result is positive or negative. Testing regularly helps to reduce the chance of both pupils and staff having to self-isolate.

If a pupil tests positive, they must isolate immediately for 10 days. However, if they have no symptoms of Covid-19, they **DO NOT** need to get a PCR test – the positive lateral flow test confirms that, they are positive. From Thursday 6 January, if the pupil who is positive has no fever and records 2 consecutive negative lateral flow tests, one 1 day 6 of isolation and another 24 hours later, then they can exit isolation after 7 days.

However, if a positive pupil does have symptoms (a fever, new continuous cough, or loss of sense of taste or smell), **the advice has not changed** – isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test. Please inform the school if your child has a positive test for Covid-19.

If your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case (aged under 18), they do not need to isolate as long as they are not showing symptoms (no fever) and return a negative daily lateral flow test result for seven days (only self-isolate if the LFD test returns positive).

The new guidance above is ONLY for anyone testing positive or identified as a close contact FROM Thursday 6 January.



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Staff should continue to wear face coverings (although some are exempt) and practise 2m social distancing in classrooms/staffrooms and in and around the building.

Everyone is encouraged to continue to use good hand hygiene techniques including regular handwashing and using sanitiser, particularly when entering/leaving and before/after eating and using the bathroom, avoid touching faces and using a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Bubbles and groupings will be reintroduced in schools and early learning establishments and where practicable to help minimise contact.

All our schools and early learning establishments will continue to implement the recommended health and safety measures with movement around buildings minimised as much as possible with increased natural ventilation in classrooms and buildings.

Enhanced cleaning routines will continue with additional day cleans with a focus on touch points such as handles, light switches etc.

Staggered lunch and pick-up times will continue:

Lunch – **12.10pm – 1.10pm**, we would encourage all children to remain at school during lunch time

Home time – P1 – P3 **2.50 – 2.55pm** (please try not to come before this time), P4 – P7 **3pm**

Parents and carers are asked to wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up children and to not gather at the school gates in large numbers.

NLC have updated their frequently asked questions page, click on link to access:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/advice-schools-and-centres-coronavirus/latest-school-updates>

REMINDER ALSO THAT P5 CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS (LUNCH) AS OF 10 JANUARY 2022.

Kind Regards

Mrs M. Reid (Acting Head Teacher)