Frettenham Primary School Hainford Primary School Horsford Primary School Old Catton Junior School White Woman Lane School St. Faiths' Primary School



Ashley Best-White Executive Headteacher

25 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The 12-month anniversary of the first national lockdown this week has provided many of us with the opportunity to reflect on a year that has been unlike any other.

It has, of course, also been a time to remember all those we have sadly lost to the virus. I know many of you will have been personally touched by such loss, and I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all of you who have lost loved ones over this past year.

As we approach the end of the spring term, it is probably impossible to predict what we may need to deal with next! But, as I write this letter to you, the sun is shining and it helps me feel hopeful that we will begin to get back to normal sooner rather than later. Hopeful that we will be able to see our families and friends one again and that better weather is also on its way.

Reporting a positive Covid-19 result over the Easter holidays

We have been required by the DfE to once again support COVID Track and Trace over the Easter holiday period and your child's school will inform you how to report a positive Covid-19 result.

- ♣ If a child or member of staff who has been in school tests positive for Covid-19 and their symptoms started or their test was taken before 3.15pm on Sunday 28th March, this must be reported to the school so that we are able to identify the affected class and staff.
- If a child or member of staff who has been in school tests positive for Covid-19 between Monday 29th March and Thursday 1st April but their symptoms started before 3.15pm on Sunday 28th March, this must also be reported to the school so that we are able to identify the affected class and staff.

If we are notified of a positive case on any of these days, we will notify you of the need for the children/staff to self-isolate via an emailed letter.

Your child's school will let you know how to contact them if your child tests positive for Covid-19 in the above timespan. They will provide you with the email address to use.

Please note the phones will not be manned on these dates and only emails related to a positive Covid19 case will be dealt with.

After the 1st April, if you need to report any positive tests that will impact on your child's return to school, then please use the usual absence reporting procedures.

Symptom free COVID19 test kits now available

As you will know, symptom free testing (also known as regular rapid testing or lateral flow testing) is now available for parents/carers, your household and bubbles.

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect everyone.

To support the testing of parents, carers and adults in households and bubbles with children in school, nursery or college, public health colleagues are seeking to extend the access to test kits via a range of community collect facilities. Therefore, from the week commencing March 23rd selected local Libraries will become a community collect site as part of an initial pilot.

You can now collect your test kits from Plumstead Rd Library to use at home. You can find the library in Plumstead Rd, Norwich NR1 4JS and its opening hours are:

Tuesday: 1pm-4pm Wednesday: 10am-2pm Thursday: 1pm-4pm Friday: 10am-2pm Saturday 10am-1pm Sunday: Closed

Alternatively, test kits can also be collected from Wroxham Library. You can find the library in Norwich Rd, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 8RX and its opening hours are:

Tuesday: 10am-4pm Wednesday: 10am-4pm Thursday: 10am-4pm Friday: 10am-4pm Saturday 10am-1pm Sunday: Closed

Test kits are free and there is no need to book.

To collect your kits, you will need to go to the library front door to pick up your testing kits. Social distancing and sanitising measures will be in place.

You, your household and bubble need to test twice a week, every three – five days. You can collect a maximum of two packs of test kits, each kit contains seven tests. If you are from a larger household, you can have up to four packs.

After you have used the tests, they can be disposed of in your normal household waste. Please do not return the tests to the library.

The attached leaflet has more information about symptom free testing and where else you can get a test.

Remember:

Primary school pupils are not required to be tested; all secondary pupils will be provided with tests by their schools

It is important you report your results online immediately, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: gov.uk/report-covid19-result all the instructions are in the pack.

If you do test positive, please self-isolate and book a PCR test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

Attendance

Thank you for supporting your child in his/her return to school since 8 March. It is no small feat to achieve the fantastic attendance figures for children returning to the classroom this term. We were delighted that attendance was high and this we hope reflects your trust in the schools (and probably a little more than a sprinkling of relief for many).

We do recognise that some children may have found returning to school difficult. We hope you and they have had the support needed to help. As always, please do talk to us about any worries or ideas you have. We know we cannot get it right all of the time, but with constructive and supportive feedback from you, we will continue to strive to be the best we can. At the end of this letter, I have put a reminder about the support that all parents can access using the Just One Norfolk website and/or telephone number.

School Lunches

We continue to work closely with our school meal catering provider to find ways of providing a range of healthy, appealing lunch menu options whilst still complying with the school COVID risk assessments and the provider risk assessments too.

Providing school lunches poses a number of logistical challenges at each of our sites. Every school is different and much of what each school can offer is dependent on the space and staff it has available. For example, the number of 'bubbles' which it has to operate, the amount of time available at lunchtime, the staff available to supervise the children in each 'bubble' and staff to disinfect chairs, tables, touch points, trays etc. after every 'bubble' has had their lunch in order to avoid cross contamination.

Our catering provider has a risk assessment in place that currently does not permit their staff to serve the children face to face from the kitchen serveries. This is in place to ensure their kitchen staff can continue to work safely.

So, for the moment, the majority of our children are served their meals by school staff - packed lunches in individual paper bags and jacket potatoes in takeaway containers. Our caterer does not provide the containers, the schools incur the additional charges for these. We have investigated other containers for hot meals, which we would also have to buy and supply, and the best option thus far has been a Tupperware type container with a lid. We remain concerned that if a hot meal was served in this type of container the food would 'sweat' and be particularly unappealing by the time some of the children received their meal.

As the meals have to be prepared and boxed individually in advance, we have chosen a menu which we think can be served in packaging which will support the quality of the meal not being adversely affected and remains appetising. I have attached the menu for the beginning of the summer term for your information. You will see that we have added different toppings to the jacket potato option including curry and bolognaise.

We will continue to review the menu as restrictions change and to trial additions to the offer we currently have. I think the first favourite to try would be a 'Fish and Chips' Friday ...

Just One Norfolk



If you have any worries about your children and their health, please take a look at the NHS website www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk.

Alternatively, please telephone - 0300 300 0123. You can ring this number for any concern that you may have over your child's health.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Online Easter Holiday Activities

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme of online activities are now confirmed for all families eligible for means tested free school meals and there is a suggested timetable to help you plan your Easter Holidays.

Don't miss out! There's stacks to keep your children and teens interested and busy during the holidays from cooking sessions to science experiments, arty projects to fitness!

Simply click on each activity to find out more information and book your child's place on the live activities.

For more information on all the activities go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/holidayactivities

If you have any questions or concerns, please email your child's school using the office@ email address and someone will be happy to help.

I hope that you, your family and loved ones keep safe and well and enjoy a sunny, joyful, Easter holiday.

A.D. Best-White

Ashley Best-White Executive Headteacher The Nebula Federation