



Weekly Newsletter: Friday 18th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it through the week and though we have a number of children off school with various illnesses (I have had a cold all week!), I am delighted to report that so far we have not had a positive COVID test result from the members of staff or children that have managed to get a test.

Clearly this weekend will be the first of our new North East lock-down arrangements and I hope you all manage to get some quality family time in your household.

Our new arrangements for starting and leaving school have really settled down this week and things have been much calmer. I appreciate that the traffic issues are still very present and we have been contacted this morning by the City Council with an offer of support to review our Travel Plan. Thank you to all those parents that are trying to do more than this and have lobbied the council to improve pedestrian safety and social distancing on the pavements and road along Tankerville terrace.

Next week we will be including more information about our future plans for on line learning and what might happen should there be a wider outbreak in school. This does not impact on our current homework provision which will run as normal. We are in constant communication with the DfE and Public Health England and their advice and guidance has been very useful in informing our procedures.

Please check the latest updates in our Covid section whilst we improve our systems.

With my very best wishes for the next few weeks ahead.

Gary Wallis-Clarke

IMPORTANT NEW and REMINDER COVID INFORMATION

Drop off and Pick up Staggered timings

Breakfast Club 8.00 am

Year 2, 4 and 6 8.30 – 8.45 am 3.05 – 3.20 pm

Year 1, 3 and 5 8.45 – 9.00 am 3.20 – 3.35 pm

Reception 8.45 – 9.00 am 3.20 – 3.35 pm

Executive Head Teacher: Gary Wallis-Clarke MA in Education BA (Hons) NPQH

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National Teaching School
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If possible do drop your child off at the gate and let them come into school on their own under our staff supervision. This now applies to all year groups.

Year 1 Gate

From Monday to improve our one way system and to stop congestion on the small steps from the car park, if Year 1 parents need to bring their child onto the yard, please could you leave via the other playground exit next to the Reception classes.

General

- Please do pick up your child or children and leave the site as quickly as possible to maintain as much social distance as possible from other families.
- We already have a lot of lost property of uniform that has no name and class on it. This is expensive and we always want to return it to you as quickly as possible. For hygiene reasons we cannot have our large communal trolley on the yard anymore so please put your child's name on their uniform.
- As our local infection rate continues to rise please could we urge parents to wear face coverings when you know social distancing around the school site and on the pavements will be difficult to manage.

By working together we can make our school as safe as possible for us all. We are doing this to try and protect everyone and follow the official guidance; it is not to be difficult or make life harder than necessary.

Communication

- If you have any health queries please do contact 111 or 119 rather than the school office. They are much better equipped to answer specific health questions.
- Please follow our health flow chart attached to this newsletter, which clarifies our procedures and isolation times.

Which e-mail should I use:

office@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk For enquiries relating to payments, absence, office administration, meals, uniform, purchases

hello@westjesmond.newcastle.sch.uk For all pastoral enquiries relating to pupils and class teachers, general school enquiries

Testing

If you feel your child has any of the three major symptoms of COVID19 (A relatively constant high temperature or fever, a harsh dry cough that will not stop for significant periods or a sudden loss of taste and smell) you should inform school and then isolate for 14 days or until you have had a test and received a negative result. Seek advice from 111.

Please do not send your child back to school until the isolation period is over or you have received a negative result.

Please note we have been informed that if your child has phlegmy cough, runny nose, sinus pain, headaches, shivers etc it is very likely that it is a cold and suitable normal cold and flu medication will help your child, but you should monitor them carefully until they feel better.