

# Whitnash Primary School

'Learning, growing and succeeding together'

Headteacher  
Mrs Donna Ellison



Langley Road  
Leamington Spa  
CV31 2EX

Tel: 01926 426773

[admin2324@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2324@welearn365.com)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## RETURN TO SCHOOL – JANUARY

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am just emailing with some information prior to the children returning to school tomorrow. We have been awaiting more updates from the Local Authority on a call this afternoon, but in the meantime have revisited our Covid Risk Assessment and some school arrangements.

The reality of the Omicron variant is that, once it is in school, it is very likely to spread rapidly amongst children and staff. Therefore we must do what we can to keep this under control, whilst also balancing the school's approach with the wider guidance. We have devised a proposed plan that we believe minimises risks wherever possible, within the recommendations.

1. Staff will continue to test twice weekly by LFT. If you can, please carry out an LFT on your child before they come back tomorrow (ideally the morning of the 5th or the night before) and carry on testing regularly. I know this is unpleasant for some children but it really helps pick up potential cases early on and stops them passing on the infection.
2. We will be limiting contact between classes, as we were before the Christmas break.
3. Children will be working in mixed ability groups in class, as they typically always have. This means that children will have a set group/seating plan in the classroom.
4. Outdoors, during play, children will play with another group, but teachers will keep track on which groups have played together each week. This will be kept under review, relaxed or tightened dependent on case numbers within a class.
5. Collection and pick up times and arrangements remain the same as they were before Christmas.
6. We must continue to ventilate the classrooms during the day so the children do need warm clothes in very cold weather.
7. Parents will be asked to wear a mask on site when dropping and collecting the children and we remind you to please distance on the playground.
8. Good hand hygiene will be promoted at all times.

Continued ...



9. Be really mindful of how Omicron is presenting in children: typical cold symptoms are really common as are a sore, 'scratchy' throat and a stomach upset. If in doubt, keep them at home, do an LFT and **get a PCR booked if symptoms** are showing, even if these symptoms are 'mild'. Please do not send your child to school with any illness.
10. We would appreciate you keeping the children at home until PCR results are back as the children could be spreading the infection whilst they are still in school.
11. If your child falls ill at school, we will ask for you to collect your child and PCR test. Siblings would also be advised to be collected and asked to complete daily LFT tests and evidenced to school to support the return to school of the non-symptomatic child.
12. Teachers will upload work to the website for when your child is well enough to do it. Please be aware that this will be provided for children isolating through Covid, not for those who are off sick for general reasons.
13. If a child tests positive, only direct/immediate close contacts will be informed and asked to daily LFT test for 7 consecutive days, evidencing the results to school, to continue attendance at school. This does not mean a whole group will close. Wider close contacts will be asked to LFT their child, but the school will not insist on seeing these results.
14. Children who have a positive case within their own household will be asked to PCR test and then LFT for 7 consecutive days to continue attendance at school. Proof of these tests may be asked for.
15. The isolation period for anyone with a positive result can de-isolate after 7 days providing proof of a negative LFT is undertaken on day 6 and 7 of isolation/24 hours apart and there are no symptoms present. This means that you will need to provide proof of these negative results before your child returns to school on day 8. Your child will not be able to attend without this proof.

These arrangements have been devised with the current information and advice we have been provided. Please note that this may be subject to change, particularly in any situation with increasing Covid numbers.

We will do everything we can to keep classes open, but if cases really start to spread, we will take advice from the UKHSA (formerly Public Health England) and this may mean a class 'circuit-break' closure. The best way we have to prevent this is to pick up asymptomatic cases quickly and prevent the infection getting into school in the first place so your help and support is greatly appreciated in this regard.

Wishing you all a very happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Donna Ellison  
Headteacher