



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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3rd December, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

A reminder please to ensure that students continue to undertake Lateral Flow Device tests at home twice weekly for the coming weeks. Students have been provided with testing kits but if you do not have any at home please email reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk to arrange collection from our Main Reception during school hours.

As you may have seen in recent national news, the Government has told secondary schools to test pupils for Covid on-site when they return after the Christmas holidays in January. Further information on this testing will be issued next week.

As a school we will continue with our control measures of ensuring good hygiene for everyone; maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes; keeping occupied spaces well ventilated; and, following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. We have also been limiting large gatherings such as assemblies.

Face coverings will continue to be worn in communal areas around the school by pupils, staff and visitors although normal medical exemptions will still be in place. **Please ensure that your child brings a face mask with them to school.** Although we retain a contingency stock of masks within school it would be helpful if your child also carries a spare mask with them throughout the day.

I would also ask again that parents and carers reinforce the message that students should also **continue to wear face coverings on school transport for the whole journey to and from school.**

The most current guidance from the Gloucestershire Covid Team and the UKHSA is given below.

- As soon as a student becomes symptomatic, they should isolate immediately and arrange to have a PCR test to see if they have COVID-19. If the PCR test result is negative, they can return to school as soon as they feel well.

A reminder that the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

- Regular, twice weekly, LFD testing of asymptomatic staff and secondary age students should continue. If someone tests positive on LFD, they should isolate and take a PCR test to confirm whether they are positive. If the result of the PCR is negative, they can return to school. If the result of the PCR is positive they should continue to isolate for the period indicated by NHS Test and Trace. Please inform the school at this point of the anticipated return date of your child.

- All close contacts of confirmed cases are advised to take a PCR test. If close contacts are under 18 years 6 months, are fully vaccinated, have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons they do not need to self-isolate unless the PCR test returns a positive result. **However, until the PCR test result is received your child should only attend school if they undertake daily Lateral Flow Device tests which provide a negative result.**

If someone has recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, they are likely to have developed some immunity. Individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms, in which case they should isolate and arrange for a PCR test.

Please contact the school, as soon as possible, on or prior to the first day of absence by calling the School's Attendance Welfare Officer on 01531 828927. This is a dedicated line open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternatively, you can inform us by emailing attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

I would politely request that parents and carers keep the school updated, using the dedicated line above, on the outcome of LFD and PCR results as well as the recovery, and return date, of their child if a positive result is confirmed. Again, all test results, positive or negative should be recorded [here](#).

Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

On Friday 10 December, we will be taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

We're asking families to donate £1 (or however much they can give), to support children in the UK and around the world. By taking part we'll be helping kids who don't have the basics they need to survive – like food, school or medicine – to start seeing the magic in the world again.

There's no need to buy a new jumper, we do not expect families to spend any additional money for this event. Students will be required to wear their school uniform on this day, it is **not** a non-uniform day. However, they will be able to wear a Christmas jumper under their blazer.

Payment of the £1.00 donation should be made via your **ParentPay Account**. The ability to make a donation will be available from 3rd December.

We would really appreciate your support to make Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day a success. Together, we can make the world better with a sweater.

Winston's Wish- Dedicate a Star

Christmas is about spending time with family and friends. It's about creating happy memories that will last a lifetime. It is also a time when we value the memories of those who are no longer with us and celebrate how much they will always mean to us.

This Christmas, you can dedicate a star in memory of your loved one which will then be placed on our Christmas Tree in the Main Reception. To dedicate a star, all we ask is you make a minimum donation of £1.00 to support the work of Winston's Wish by clicking [here](#). The school will pass on 100% of your donation to Winston's Wish.

Your star can be collected from our Finance Office so that you can write your own message and hang on the tree. Alternatively, you can email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk and we will add the message for you.

Dedicating a star is such a special way to honour the memory of someone you love and all donations generously given in their memory will help grieving children and young people to face the future with confidence and hope.

Meet n Eat will also be selling star themed cupcakes on Wednesday 15th December with 50% of the purchase price being donated to Winton's Wish.

Winston's wish is the school's chosen local charity and we will hold a further event in the Spring Term. Please look out for more information. The Winston's Wish website can be accessed [here](#).

December Holiday Free School Meals Scheme

During the December holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to our Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through COVID-19 grant funding we have received and is separate to that of the term time free school meals.

Parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a voucher for £30 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover both weeks in the December holidays.

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they have already been included, but, to ensure we get all who are eligible, we are encouraging new parents to sign up as soon as they can.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for the December holiday period is open from Friday 26 November until midday Monday 13 December. Voucher emails will be sent out between 13 and 15 December. If parents apply after the deadline, we cannot guarantee delivery of vouchers before 25 December.

For more information and for sign up if you haven't already please visit our website: the Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page on <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/> our website.

Please contact childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you have any queries not answered on the Holiday Free School Meal vouchers page.

Christmas Lunch Day- Monday 13th December 2021

Thank you to all those that have already pre-ordered their Christmas Lunch. Just a reminder that you must pre-order a ticket for Christmas Lunch at the Finance Office by Thursday 9th December. You will need your cashless fob with you when ordering so payment can be taken. Sandwiches will be available to purchase at breaktime only and Paninis will be available to pre-order at breaktime as usual. Only Christmas Lunch will be served as a main meal on this day and it must be pre-ordered.

Newent Community School Parents' Association

Please see attached letter from NCSPA with details of their Christmas Raffle.

On a final note best wishes to those students taking part in the County Cross Country event this Sunday. Many thanks to our school staff and community partners for supporting this event. I will update you the results next week!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal