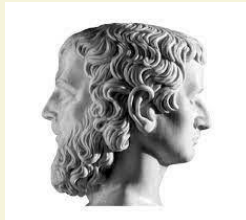


Dear Parents and Carers,

We were really pleased to welcome back all pupils to school on Wednesday this week after the Christmas break. I hope you were able to enjoy Christmas and on behalf of all the staff at school I wish you a Happy New Year.

I met with the whole school on Monday to share with them how January got its name. You may not know that it derives from the Roman god- *Janus*, who had two faces. An older face looking backward (into the previous year) and a younger face looking forward (into the New Year). The opportunity exists to reflect on the previous year's successes and things that perhaps could have been better and set aims and goals for the New Year. Pupils were asked what aims they might decide to focus on for 2022.

2021



2022

I would like to update you on current arrangements within school as we move into the Spring Term following updated Covid-19 guidance from Government.

Testing on return to school

Pupils have been asked to complete a Covid-19 test once, using the LFD kits, on their return to school. Consent forms were sent out before the end of the Autumn Term. Testing was carried out this week. Take up has been very low- however it may be that families have been testing at home during the Christmas break. I would ask that twice weekly testing continues until the end of January, when further guidance is expected.

The biggest risk to school operating normally is large numbers of staff having to isolate due to Covid-19. Whilst school has several contingency plans in place to cover for isolating staff, significant staff absence rates will impact on the ability of school to keep pupils safe in school and deliver the curriculum. **IF** we arrive at a position where the levels of staffing in school are not safe, I will contact you together with Cheshire West & Chester and Public Health England. Sending pupils home to access remote learning will be a last resort. It is important that we continue to maintain the strategies already in place that have served us well up until this point- *Hand Hygiene, enhanced classroom and toilet area cleaning and wearing face coverings in communal areas*. Very few pupils have opted to observe the wearing of masks. This potentially could contribute to the worst case staffing scenario described above.

Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.



Cont.....

Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

Information on the vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds

Nationally around half of 12 to 15 year olds have now received at least one dose.

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

Vaccination for this group will also continue to be carried out by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). The SAIS team will be in touch with school to detail these arrangements.

Attached is a Pupil vaccination information leaflet, which you might like to read.

Flu vaccinations

Flu Clinics remain open for any child who did not receive the vaccination previously. If you wish to book an appointment for your child, you can do so using the number 01606 555285.

Clinics will be held on 8th Jan at Wharton Children's Centre, Winsford and on 15th Jan at Victoria Rd Children's Centre, Northwich. If you do not live in these immediate area, please advise medical staff on 01606 555285 in order to find the nearest clinic to your location.

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Headteacher