



## Windsor Hill Primary School

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**Principal: Miss I McKane**

**Vice-Principal: Mr P. Morrow**

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

Dear Parent / Guardian,

### **COVID UPDATE – January 2022**

I trust you all had a lovely Christmas and wish everyone a Happy, Healthy 2022. As we look forward to welcoming our pupils into school for the new term on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, I write to update you on the most recent Covid Guidance from the NI Assembly and the instructions the Department of Education have given to school as we prepare to return for the new school term, mindful of the increased infection rates across Northern Ireland.

I would ask all parents to be as positive and reassuring to your children about returning to school, while Covid continues to influence so much of our school routine, I do not want our children to feel unduly stressed and worried about Covid as we prepare to return. It is important we get our children back into school learning together for their social and emotional wellbeing as well as their education. Please be assured our staff continue to follow guidance re; cleaning, ventilation, consistent groups etc. throughout the day in school, as part of our school routine and our staff work tirelessly to ensure that your children feel safe in school and are taught in an encouraging, positive environment.

We do however need to responsibly work together. Pupils with Covid 19 symptoms should not be sent to school. a high temperature – *this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*

OR

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

OR

a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste

If children have these symptoms, they should get tested.

The PHA are encouraging lateral flow tests for all post primary pupils, their advice regarding children under 5 has changed from using PCR tests to using lateral flow tests. In the light of this parents are strongly encouraged to get lateral flow tests and use them at home.

Tests can be ordered online for home use at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or they can be collected at local pharmacies – unfortunately we have had shortages reported in the media.

The NI Executive has also announced a change to the rules on self-isolation for positive cases, reducing the period from 10 days to seven, providing the individual has negative LFD results on both days 6 and 7 with tests taken 24 hours apart.

### **Remote Learning**

As far as possible, it is planned that lessons will continue in school, but should classes have to close for short periods, e.g. staff shortages, plans are in place for remote learning to be provided via SEESAW. All pupils should have their login details but please contact either myself or class teachers for further information as needed. Where computer or internet access is an issue, some support may be available – please contact me directly.

It may be possible to provide some remote learning in other cases of absence related to Covid e.g. where children have to self-isolate or have tested positive and are unable to come to school. Please understand however that when

remote learning is provided in these cases it will not be possible for this to reflect in class learning, with a focus on consolidation of basic skills. Children who are ill will not be expected to do school work. Every effort will be made to support them to catch up when they are fit to return to school.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss issues further.

Yours faithfully

I. McKane  
Principal