



12th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you ...

As we reach the end of an eventful and difficult half term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and understanding. Managing the impact of staff shortages has been challenging, and we really appreciate your patience. We are hopeful that many of our staff, who have been unwell, will return as we start the new half term.

We appreciate that as this third lockdown continues circumstances at home may become more difficult for families. As time goes on children who were responding positively to Remote Learning and who were engaging in Remote Learning may not sustain this as the weeks continue. We encourage you to email the school office schooloffice@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk or phone us (0151 625 5561) if you feel your child needs further support or you think school may be able to assist you in any way to help everyone through these unprecedented times.

Screen Free Day...

We hope that your child/children enjoyed having the opportunity to take a break from screens and TEAMS meetings on Thursday. It was lovely to hear about all the different activities that the children completed. We were really impressed with the creativity, imagination and skills that they demonstrated. Our next Screen Free Day will be on Thursday 4th March and will have a World Book Day theme. We will send more details about this after half term.

Half Term Activities ...

Both you and your child/children are probably ready for a well-deserved break from Remote Learning. We have a couple of fun and interesting links that may appeal to you over half term, which have been shared with us.

[Bottle Moments](#) is organising a competition and is encouraging children to draw what they are dreaming of doing once the pandemic is over. There are different bottle templates to download and print and then they can be as creative as they like! The winners will have the opportunity of having their picture drawn by Bottle Moments cartoonist, Rob Murray, printed on a special mug, and presented to them in person by Good Morning Britain host, Ben Shephard.

[CBBC](#) are revamping their You Tube Channel and will be uploading lots of programmes suitable for 5-11 Year Olds.

Widening of symptoms for COVID-19 testing in Wirral...

You will know after many months of hearing about Covid-19 that the three main symptoms of COVID-19 are a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of smell or taste. If you experience any of these symptoms you should self-isolate, book a test and get tested.

We have been informed by Public Health that the virus can present in all kinds of ways and there is now a wider set of symptoms, which some people have also been testing positive with.

They include:

- Diarrhoea
- A persistent headache
- Fever and chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

Many of these symptoms could be caused by other “usual” viruses but at this time Wirral’s Director of Public Health is urging Wirral residents, adults or children, to get a Covid-19 test if they are showing any of the wider symptoms of the virus. You must arrange to get a test at one of Wirral’s symptoms-only testing sites. You can book a symptoms-only test at a mobile testing centre via www.wirral.gov.uk/test When booking a test on-line for any of these wider symptoms, you will need to choose the “*you’ve been asked to get a test by a local council*” option.

We are being told that the test centres are getting results quickly now and if the test is negative your child can return to school as soon as they are well. Please can we remind you that if your child has diarrhoea or has been vomiting, they should not return to school until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

It is good to hear that Wirral’s infection rates have fallen since we went into lockdown in early January, but they are still high, and we all need to do everything we can to further reduce the numbers and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This will help to ensure people are not spreading the virus without knowing.

Thank you to everyone for all the care you are taking to protect our local and school community by following the lockdown rules, staying at home where possible, keeping your distance and washing hands regularly. The infection numbers are falling, and we hope that these extra precautions will help this. Click here for the [National Lockdown Guidance](#)

Test & Trace over half term...

Our school plays a vital part in track and trace in the event of any staff or children testing positive for Covid-19. Guidance from the Department for Education states that if a pupil or staff member tests positive for Covid-19 having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Therefore, we are asking that you make contact with us if your child has been in school and develops symptoms between finishing school on Friday 12th February and Sunday 14th February. We will need to notify their close contacts if the Covid-19 test result comes back positive. Please contact the school office to inform us of this, we will be checking this email address. schooloffice@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk

If your child develops symptoms and tests positive after Sunday 14th February, you should follow isolation and contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace and inform school of the end date of their isolation. Thank you for your cooperation.

School reopens for Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children on Monday 22nd February. Remote Learning will also recommence on this day.

Have a well-deserved Half Term break.

Mrs E Bailey
Acting Headteacher