



Explore, Learn and Grow Together

Brewery Road
Wooler
Northumberland
NE71 6QF

Thursday 16th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Testing Times – I am sure that you will all have seen the news over the last few days regarding the surge in cases of COVID linked to the Omicron variant. At the time of writing this letter guidance to schools has not been updated to reflect this or to give any indication of what we might expect in January. We have however received the information below regarding home testing for staff and our Year 7 and 8 pupils at Glendale:

All staff and our Key Stage 3 pupils (Year 7 & Year 8) are being asked to continue home COVID testing, using the LFD test devices provided from school, over the Christmas & New Year break. If the LFD test is positive it needs to be followed by a PCR test and isolation rules followed as instructed by NHS Test & Trace. I do not need to be informed of the test results during the break from school but we will need to know if any children return a positive PCR test during the break as we return to school on Wednesday 5th January. Messages can be left on the school answer machine at any time over the Christmas & New Year period or an email can be sent to the admin address for each school:

woolerfirst@woolerandglendale.co.uk

glendalemiddle@woolerandglendale.co.uk

Testing will take place in-school before the start of term on Tuesday 4th January 2022 for pupils in Year 7 and Year 8. This will follow the same system that we have used before with appointment times being sent to individual parents via the school text messaging system over the next couple of days. Testing will take place in the Technology Room again which will be accessed via the door to the right of the school next to the Year 1 classroom.

Vaccinations

Walk-in booster vaccinations are available to adults (and also I believe to 12 to 15 year olds but please check this yourselves before travelling) at:

- the Swan Centre in Berwick this Friday (17th December) from 2pm to 8pm and again on Tuesday 21st December 9.30am to 5pm.
- the Willowbrook Leisure Centre in Alnwick today (Thursday 16th December) until 5pm and again on Saturday 18th December from 8.30am to 12pm.

January 2022

Looking forward to the start of term in January it is very difficult to know what the situation will be. We will however continue to plan for the worst and hope for the best! We have become adept at responding to changes to COVID secure procedures here in school ensuring the least possible disruption to learning for all of our children. I hope to be able to welcome everyone back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022 fit, healthy and ready to learn. If there are any significant changes to guidelines and procedures for schools I will communicate these to you all via email and text as quickly as I can.

Panto Plea – a special request to all families of children who have attended the Pantomime with Glen Valley tours today. Please do lateral flow tests with your children before they return to school tomorrow for the last day of term. I am sure that everyone will agree that we don't want to risk a spike in infection transmission from school in the run up to Christmas – thank you.

End of term newsletters will be coming home tomorrow but I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of my colleagues across our schools, to all parents, carers and wider family members, governors and of course to our children who have dealt with all of this magnificently. The challenges will continue into 2022 but for now I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

M.Deane-Hall
Executive Headteacher