



NORBRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Spring 2021 Newsletter



5th February 2021

Hello Parents and Carers,

Here I am again trying to find the right words for yet another strange newsletter.

Let me start by taking the opportunity to thank you all; parents, children, teachers, teaching assistants, kitchen staff, cleaning staff, office staff, mid day supervisors. You are all doing an amazing job in what has been the longest and toughest month I can ever remember.

The vast majority of you are looking after yourselves and keeping your families safe and I know that this is not an easy thing to do, especially given the fact that the weather is lousy and you can't even get out to play on the garden.

The pay off is that the number of positive cases in our area has fallen week on week, with only 28 positives for the Staveley and Norbriggs area last week compared to 49 at the start of January.

If figures keep dropping like this then I think there is a very real possibility that we can begin to open for more children from 8th March.

Just to continue on the positive theme, I have seen more of the sun and the evenings are getting lighter. Temperatures should start to pick up soon and the joys of Spring will help to make us all feel more hopeful. The Government are cracking on with vaccinations and hopefully it won't be too long until we've all had our jab and can return to some sort of normality. That first pint in a pub garden is going to taste absolutely lovely!

As part of our drive to make school as safe as possible all staff, including kitchen and cleaning staff, have been testing themselves at home twice a week using Lateral Flow Tests. I am pleased to announce that nobody in school has tested positive. This will be a really good way of catching anybody who has symptoms early so that we keep the virus out of school.

We did have an Inset day booked for next Friday 12th February but I have cancelled this. Our training was cancelled and there seems little point in having a day off for the sake of it. We have three Inset days remaining and my plan is to wait until later in the year when the weather is better and hopefully we are out of lockdown. Tag the three days onto a weekend so that we can all get away and have a well earned break. I will be in touch with more details as soon as we have made arrangements.

Mrs Richardson has provisionally booked the pantomime for Christmas 2021. Surely we will be able to resume school trips by then. You will need to reserve your place by making a £5 deposit using ParentPay. Mrs Walsh sent a letter with instructions on how to set up your ParentPay account and your logon details in December. If you cannot find these or need help setting your account up then please contact Mrs Walsh.

Children who have been attending school have been having school dinners as normal.

The Government have provided Food Vouchers for eligible families and hopefully you have all received these by now. I will issue vouchers after half term to cover any further time away from school.

The Local Authority will provide food vouchers for eligible families to cover half term through their Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

We have also been distributing bagels, cereals and food parcels on a weekly basis to families that are in need.

Staff are contacting families weekly to check that you are able to access home learning and to offer any support that you might need. The calls are also intended to check in with you and make sure that you are all ok. These are tough times so if there is any support we can offer to help you through them please ask.

The staff are working incredibly hard at teaching lessons everyday whilst maintaining the resources and activities on the website for home learning.

The quality of work on the website is amazing.

There is an expectation from the Government that infant children will do 3 hours of home learning a day and Junior children will do 4 hours of home learning a day. I know that this is not easy for you to juggle around running your home, working from home, teaching more than one child, but it is really important that the children engage in school work everyday to help prevent them from falling too far behind.

At the very least they should read everyday, practice their phonics or spellings everyday and practice their times tables every day.

If you have trouble with devices we can loan you a laptop and the Government are offering top ups to mobile data to help pay for your internet access. Please let us know if we can help with tech for learning.

We have one more week in school and then a week off for half term. Fingers crossed that we will be back in schools two weeks after half term and you can all breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that you've made it through another lockdown.

I thank you all for your continued support and look forward to seeing everybody in school very soon.

Thank you

P. Scragg
Head Teacher



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Term Dates

There are 3 unused Inset days. I will give you details of when these will be used once they have been organised.

- **Spring 2021**

- Friday 12th February 2021 School finishes for half term
- Monday 22nd February 2021 Vulnerable children and Critical worker children back to school
- Monday 8th March 2021 Possible return to school for all children
- Thursday 1st April 2021 School finishes for Easter

- **Summer 2021**

- Monday 19th April Children back to school
- Monday 3rd May 2021 May Day – school closed
- Friday 28th May 2021 School finishes for half term
- Monday 7th June 2021 Children back to school
- Thursday 22nd July 2021 School finishes for the Summer

- **Autumn 2021**

- Thursday 2nd September 2021 INSET Day, no children
- Friday 3rd September 2021 INSET Day, no children
- Monday 6th September 2021 Children back to school



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