

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement, just before the New Year, regarding return-to-school dates this term – please disregard this information.

You may be aware that, due to rising infection rates of Covid-19, the Prime Minister has announced a new national lockdown in a bid to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our schools, Newbridge Junior School and Penhale Infant School & Nursery, are now closed until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children.

If you and your partner are key or critical worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open to your child, and we look forward to seeing them in school.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school community as safe as possible, and I would like to remind you of the continued safety measures in place on school grounds:

- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
- Visitors / Parents must wear face coverings on school grounds, including at the school gates

Please note, where possible, we are working with windows open in classrooms for added ventilation, and as the cold days have returned, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing such as tights or leggings underneath skirts, and jumpers or plain fleeces without a hood or large brand logo.

VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION - My team and I are committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are dealing with the current crisis. If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below then your children will be prioritised for education provision (We do have limited spaces for this provision to ensure that we continue to keep everyone safe, so please only take a place if you really have no other option):

- Health and social care
- Education of childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Please note that this list is regularly updated, please refer to the link below for the most recent list.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#critical-workers

For safeguarding and logistical reasons, your child will need to attend school every day if you choose to use this provision.

www.penhaleinfantschool.org.uk

www.newbridgejuniorschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Webb MA(Ed) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) Msc NPQH NLE

Penhale Infant School
Lincoln Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5BG
T: 03333602185
E: office@penhaleinfantschool.org.uk

Newbridge Junior School
New Road, Portsmouth, PO2 7RW
T: 03333602190
E: office@newbridgejuniorschool.org.uk



If you are not currently using this provision but feel you are eligible and wish your child to have a place, please phone the school office to discuss it with us.

You must give the school prior notice that you need to use this provision, so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Students arriving without giving prior notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.

REMOTE LEARNING – We will provide high-quality remote learning to ensure a consistent education is available and it is our expectation that your child will engage with this. We do understand that this places pressure on you as a family during this difficult time, and your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important; and we are very grateful for your time and effort.

While away from the classroom pupils will be provided with work on Seesaw and we are also offering live teaching, via Microsoft Teams, which I know many of your children (and maybe you as parents and carers) have already taken part in. We have had incredible feedback from many parents about how fantastic these sessions are and how they are really helping and supporting their children. A timetable of when these lessons are will be emailed home every Friday so that you know when the live sessions are (a timetable for the next two days will be emailed later today). If you are having problems with logging onto either Teams or Seesaw, please contact the school office and we will try to help you. As with all technology, there are many teething problems, please be understanding of this as we are doing the very best we can.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - If your child receives benefits related free school meals you will be able to attend the school each week and be provided a weekly food parcel. For unique circumstances i.e. if you or someone in your household has tested positive or is self-isolating please let us know and alternative arrangements will be made. We will contact eligible families soon to confirm collection dates and the process.

My team and I will continue to stay in touch with you across the term, however, do let us know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require additional support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage these ongoing changes. Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Warmest regards,

Mrs A Webb

Headteacher of Newbridge Junior School and Penhale Infants School & Nursery