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## Lionwood Junior School Whole School Newsletter

Thursday 18th September 2020



Lionwood Junior

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, as suspected, we have had a quick increase in the amount of children getting tested, due to symptoms that may be simply another virus or cold, but who need to make sure. Thank you to everyone for helping us to follow the risk assessment and keep everyone safe.

Due to the fact that we estimate that we will get more children/staff having to be tested as time goes on, we have set up a page on the website that will state which 'bubbles' have children/staff with symptoms updated on a daily basis.

Visit: <https://lionwoodjunior.co.uk/covid-related-news-updated-daily/> for the latest news. We are hoping this will keep you informed without inundating you with the same letters and texts every day.

Of course, if we have any POSITIVE TEST results we would contact you directly through text and email with what we are doing.

In recent days trying to book a test has been hard and has led to a lot of delay—so be aware that results may take a some time.



### Arrangements for Home Learning in the Event of Partial or Full Closure

There are 3 different approaches to 'Home Learning' in response to different circumstances:

1. If your child is self-isolating due to them or members of their household having symptoms (providing they are well enough to work) their classteacher will provide a paper work pack which follows the work currently going on in class. They will be able to upload work and messages to teachers will be picked up as often as is practical in the school day.
2. If we have to close the Year Group or Whole School, teachers will provide a mixture of at least daily zoom calls to go through work, online resources and the opportunity to upload work and message teachers throughout school day—this is possible as teachers will also be self-isolating. A paper option for those without technology and selected online lessons from Oak National Academy will also be available. All work will be in line with the Lionwood Curriculum.
3. For children who are not required to self-isolate but whose parents have decided to keep them off school due to worries of infection, parents can access Oak National Academy resources but will not be providing Option 1 or 2 (above), as the government expects them to be in school—but we want to support parents and children as much as possible in their personal circumstances. Go to:  
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>  
where you will find a daily programme of lessons

**If your child is off school due to illness then they are not expected to complete work of course.**



### LACK OF TESTS ETC

As some of you will have experienced, and many of you have seen on the news, over recent days it has been extremely difficult to book a test at a test site or order a home test kit. It seems that this is due to problems with the capacity at the testing labs as well as the booking system. The government has said that they are dealing with this.

The recommended route is still to try and book a place at a test site if possible or order a home test. If you have repeatedly tried to do this and are getting nowhere, please contact the school and we will try to help.

In the meantime, I have contacted the Local Authority by phone so that they can pass to the Department for Education my concerns about lack of test appointments and the lengthy wait for results which are causing families and schools anxiety as well as financial hardship. I have said that this is not sustainable particularly as we go into winter.

I have also written to Rt Hon Chloe Smith MP (Norwich North) on behalf of the school to voice my concerns and ask her about what she is doing to press the government to improve the situation. I will share any reply I receive with you.

Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether the symptoms you or your children are displaying warrant a test. If you want a bit more advice, there is a questionnaire run by NHS England that aims to help people with this: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>



### NHS Flu vaccinations

All children in school are being offered the Flu Vaccination this year as normal. The medical team will be in school on 9th November 2020.

**It is essential that if you want your child to be vaccinated that you give your consent online by the closing date which is: 30th September 2020. Your child cannot be vaccinated without you doing this. There is no paper consent form available. Details have been sent to you by email and letter.**

As you would expect, we have been provided with a comprehensive risk assessment to ensure that these vaccinations are carried out safely.

**You have received a letter School Photos on September 21st 2020.**

**Please contact if you do not want your child to be photographed.**

### KEEPING THE SCHOOL SAFE

We are only allowed to keep the school open for children and staff if we adhere to the Risk Assessment measures that have been put in place by the government. We have done our absolute best to make these as practical as possible for parents and children and really appreciate your support in keeping the children, families and staff safe, and our school open.

We ask that parents do 3 things to keep us all safe.

- **Wear a mask (if medically able)** - I know this can be an annoyance, but as you can appreciate we have some very vulnerable adults, children and staff who really appreciate this extra precaution.
- **Wait at the gates until a member of staff is there**— this is an important part of our risk assessment. Although some waiting is necessary—we have done our best to keep this to a minimum— thank you for your continued patience
- **Keep to the walkways**—This really helps to keep the bubbles separate.

### Jeans for Genes

On **Friday 18th September** we will be marking **Jeans for Genes Day** by doing Class Assemblies about the charity which supports children and families with genetic conditions. It is a chance for us to raise awareness of disability. **CHILDREN CAN WEAR JEANS TO SCHOOL**.

**WE CANNOT COLLECT MONEY THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS**

Visit: <https://www.jeansforgenesday.org/> for more information about the charity.

### Getting colder

As the weather is getting a bit colder, can you please ensure that the children bring a coat and jumper and wear trousers or tights so that they are warm enough inside and outside. Please note we need to keep the windows and doors open when it's practical, in order to give the rooms ventilation to help minimise infection.

Many thanks