



# Brunswick Park Primary School

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**Head Teacher: Susannah Bellingham**

*Learning for living through respect, support and challenge*

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## To All Parents and Carers

4 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a peaceful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow to start a new term.

You will have heard in the news that schools are expecting additional staff absence due to COVID-19, and have been asked to put plans in place to manage it. We have done this at Brunswick Park, and assure you they are focused on keeping the children in school, taught by staff who are familiar to them. Remote Learning – learning at home – will happen as a last resort, only after all other options have been tried. These include being taught by other teachers and leaders at the school, by support staff, by agency staff and in combined classes or groups.

I am pleased to say that 95% of our staff were able to return to work today following their Lateral Flow tests yesterday, so we are ready to welcome all children back to school as normal. We will do our best to keep this normality going by continuing with the increased infection control measures reintroduced last term:

- Continued enhanced cleaning of hard and frequently touched surfaces;
- Continued regular handwashing and sanitising;
- Sanitising hands on entry to the school premises;
- Adults in school including parents, carers and visitors wearing face coverings over the nose and mouth in corridors and communal spaces;
- Suspension of large indoor gatherings including Sharing Assemblies and performances until the Government Review at the end of January 2022;
- 2x weekly Lateral Flow Tests for all staff;
- Additional manual ventilation of classrooms and teaching spaces;
- Regular CO<sup>2</sup> monitoring to maintain air quality inside the school building;
- One-way system for adults to enter and exit the school premises at 08:45 and 15:30.

Primary-aged children do not wear face coverings and are unvaccinated. Therefore, we need your support to ensure the spread of COVID-19 is limited amongst the children to avoid further disruption to their learning and damage to their sense of wellbeing.



**For children who do not have symptoms of COVID-19:**

If you have them or are able to get hold of them, please test your children with a Lateral Flow Device today. If the results are negative, they can return to school tomorrow. If the results are positive, take them for a follow-up PCR test and isolate them until you receive the results. If they are negative, your children can return to school. If they are positive, follow the instructions given by the NHS.

If children have symptoms of COVID-19, take them straight for a PCR test and isolate them until you receive the results.

**Please report all positive tests results from Lateral Flow and PCR tests to the School Office.** The school must report to Public Health if:

- There are 5 positive cases among pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period;
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period

so additional measures can be put in place to reduce the spread of infection and keep the school open. I know there has been a shortage of Lateral Flow Tests recently, and appreciate you may not be able to get them at the moment. Though now the test is taken only by swabbing inside the nose, there are also some children for whom this is distressing. Thank you for doing your best, as every test taken helps us to support the children, particularly following a holiday. If sufficient tests are available, please continue to test your children at home twice weekly on Sundays and Wednesdays to ensure they're not being sent into school whilst asymptomatic and spread COVID-19 infection without realising.

January is cold, dark and a bit bleak anyway, without the additional challenges of COVID-19, but with your help and support we remain determined to make it, and the rest of this term, positive, welcoming, interesting and fun. Thank you, and I and all the staff look forward to seeing you and your children tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely



Susannah Bellingham  
Head Teacher