

Putnoe Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs G Peck M.Ed

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'The Headteacher, Staff and Governors at Putnoe Primary School aim to help all pupils enjoy and achieve. We strive for academic excellence while seeking to provide a balance between academic subjects and the aesthetic, practical, musical and physical activities.

We believe all pupils should have the opportunity to develop those life skills that will raise self-confidence and self-esteem and contribute to their role as responsible citizens.'

Mission statement

14th December 2020

Parent/Carer Update

Good News

We had some great news following our Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) review this term. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive following interviews with staff and children during the virtual review. A summary of the verbal feedback is presented below (we'll publish the written report once it has been received).

- ✓ The school has a personal feel – staff know the children well
- ✓ A caring approach is adopted by staff – it is clear they are passionate about providing the best possible education for the children
- ✓ There is a 'no-one should be left behind' attitude, despite the challenges
- ✓ There are lots of opportunities for children to develop leadership skills
- ✓ The school radio and assemblies are used to good effect to showcase children's work
- ✓ Film clips, produced by children, have been picked up by published authors who have then supported the school's commitment to high standards in reading and writing
- ✓ The spirit of teamwork and commitment was at the heart of the school

Positive Cases

In the two positive pupil cases, tracing has revealed transmission has been from a family member and not from another child in school. Due to the strict self-isolating procedures prior to the positive tests, the children in question had not been in school for some significant time before developing symptoms, therefore, meaning no contact had occurred with other members of the school.

The school has been praised by Public Health representatives for the low number of reported cases and it was stated that this was testament to the high standards of cleanliness and hygiene maintained by the school.

Email: putnoeprimary@putnoeprimary.co.uk Website: www.putnoeprimaryschool.co.uk



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Isolation Rules

You may have seen, on the news, that new 'self-isolation' advice has been circulated by the government. This, in essence, reduces the isolation time from 14 days to 10 days if you are a contact of someone with symptoms or a positive test result.

I have chosen **not** to adopt this change so we will still insist on a 14 day period if children are deemed to be a close contact or are in a household where there has been a positive case.

The reason for this decision is that one of our two cases developed symptoms on Day 11 of their isolation period. If that pupil had been allowed back into school after Day 10, it is likely that all 30 children in the bubble would have had to isolate for a further 10 days (a loss of 300 days of learning for the class). This would have had a significant impact on learning and the ability for parents and carers to attend work.

I believe I can keep your children, families and staff safer by following the 14 day isolation rule from the previous guidance. At a point where cases in schools have soared, I strongly believe schools must do everything possible to safeguard their community. I hope I can count on your support with this decision.



Face Masks

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of visitors wearing their masks below their nose when collecting or dropping-off children. Please be mindful to cover your face correctly (if you are able to wear a mask) so that we can maintain excellent safety standards at these times.



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Christmas Safety

Christmas in the Petch household has always been a family affair. It is with great sadness that I can't spend this Christmas with my extended family, as normal. What we all do this Christmas is likely to have a significant impact on how schools can operate in the new year. I urge you all to be sensible about how your families mix during the holiday. We have all worked so hard to keep positive cases to an absolute minimum.

Please be mindful of this when making your own plans.

Free School Meal Vouchers

The Local Authority have confirmed the arrangements for the distribution of Free School Meal funding for the holiday period (a letter confirming these arrangements is included with my update). A company called Black Hawk have been chosen to supply the vouchers during the Christmas and February half-term breaks.

Vouchers will be issued by e-mail or SMS text message, with further information available from Black Hawk directly at <https://www.select-your-reward.co.uk/Faqs> or on 0344 693 9901. We will have very limited capacity to deal with any difficulties during the holiday period so please ensure we have the correct contact details for you.

Positive Cases in the Holidays

Schools have been asked to have someone on-call for the first 6 days of the Christmas holiday to help support families where positive cases have been identified. This means that I will be contactable, by e-mail, for this period. My main role will be to support the tracing process should we be informed of a positive case.

Please use the following e-mail address to inform the school if your child develops symptoms and/or receives a positive test result: putnoeprimary@putnoeprimary.co.uk

After Wednesday 23rd December, the school will not have to ask other families to self-isolate. Positive cases or the onset of symptoms will still need communicating to the school so we can advise you of your child's return date to school.

Final Words

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Putnoe Primary. Thank you, sincerely, for all the support you have given us at school throughout 2020. We'll look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards,

Mr Petch

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