

'Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.'

Timothy Hackworth Primary School



Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

## Happy New Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all have had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that you and your families are all safe and well too.

We look forward to seeing you all again tomorrow and working with you this term.

As you may be aware, the current rise in CV19 cases is affecting school staffing both nationally and locally. The availability of supply teaching staff in the North East continues to be extremely limited, on some days there is no supply cover available at all. Over the Christmas holidays, a number of teaching staff and administrative staff have been affected by CV19; these members of staff will be absent at the start of term. It is highly likely that the situation, unfortunately, will continue, until, hopefully, things settle down; something that we are all wishing for.

Please be assured that we are doing our utmost to continue as normal, despite our current staff shortages. Although we will continue to try our best, it might mean that you are unable to talk to a member of staff as quickly as you would like to, or it might mean that you have to leave a telephone message rather than someone answering the telephone straight away. Please bear with us; we thank you for your patience and support with this. These are indeed tricky times but we pride ourselves in Shildon by, once again, all of us pulling together and helping each other.

### CV19 Testing Update

The Government guidance has recently changed in relation to positive test results.

Please continue to send a screenshot of your child's positive LFT (white plastic test) to our school email address. The day after the date of your child's positive LFT is classed as Day 1.

Please continue to organise a PCR test. Due to the current circumstances, this is proving much more difficult to do at the moment. Please order a home testing kit in these circumstances but persist in booking a PCR, as it is looking like PCR slots do become available eventually. If your child receives a negative PCR test, then they do not need to isolate, and are able to return to school. Please send results into school.

Whilst you are waiting for a PCR test, or for a home test to arrive, please repeat an LFT on Day 6 and on Day 7. These two tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

Head Teacher: Mrs. L. Boulton  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs. J. Slattery  
Chair of Governors: Mrs. P. Crook  
Byerley Road, Shildon, Co. Durham DL4 1HN  
Tel. 01388 772959  
Email: [timothyhackworth@durhamlearning.net](mailto:timothyhackworth@durhamlearning.net)  
Website: [www.timothyhackworthschool.co.uk](http://www.timothyhackworthschool.co.uk)



Literature Works



If your child has negative tests on Days 6 and 7, your child can then return to school on Day 8. You will need to send screenshots of your child's negative LFT tests to the school email address.

If your child has positive LFTs on Day 6 or Day 7, then additional LFTs can be taken on Days 8, 9 and 10. Two days of negative tests, 24 hours apart, means that your child is able to return to school. Any positive LFTs must continue to be sent to my email or to school mail.

Your child's attendance is very important to us, however, if your child is unwell, it is advisable to do an LFT test before they attend school, or to organise a PCR test if they have symptoms. With the new Omicron variant, a cough or a cold could be a symptom, so it is always best to check, to avoid spreading any potential CV19 infection to other children, staff and parents.

### School Uniform

In the spirit of continuing as best as we can, as close to normal as can be, may I take this opportunity to remind you that when children return to school tomorrow, they do need to wear full school uniform; no trainers, jewellery or jogging suit bottoms please. We are always proud of how smart your children look in their school uniforms; it is important that wearing a full school uniform continues, despite the circumstances that we face. Routine is always important for children, and wearing the correct school uniform helps with this. Thank you for your support.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by leaving a message with the School Office.

I look forward to seeing you all again tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. L. Boulton*

Head Teacher

*Mrs. J. Slattery*

Deputy Head Teacher

*Mrs. P. Crook*

Chair of Governors

