



31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

## Welcome Back!

The new school year (2021 – 2022) is now underway and we are so excited to welcome all our pupils, teaching and support staff back for another fantastic year of learning and growing alongside one another.

Over the summer we have been developing our plans and ideas for school life and as always, your thoughts on improving this area are always welcomed. If you do have any areas of school life you feel we should be focusing on, please e-mail or send them to me. You can reach me at [help@nettlefield.co.uk](mailto:help@nettlefield.co.uk)

The 2021/22 year ahead is always exciting, and we have lots of other plans for the enjoyment and education of your pupils at Nettlefield PS. I have listed staffing changes below for your information, in case it is necessary.

<b>N1</b>	Mrs L Cardy (Nursery Coordinator)
<b>N2</b>	Mrs M Mackey
<b>P1K</b>	Mrs A Kane (SENCO)
<b>P1G</b>	Ms A Gallagher
<b>P2F</b>	Mrs E Ferris
<b>P2M</b>	Mrs J Maxwell
<b>P3P</b>	Mrs J Parkinson / Miss A Patterson
<b>P3L</b>	Mrs H Long
<b>P4H</b>	Mrs A Humphries / Miss L Wilson
<b>P4EH</b>	Mrs E Hood
<b>P5M</b>	Mrs V McKay (Maternity Cover- Mrs W Marshall)
<b>P5W</b>	Mr M White
<b>P6I</b>	Miss C Fullerton (Vice Principal)
<b>P6/7M</b>	Mrs V McFeeters / Miss D Murphy
<b>P7H</b>	Mrs C Henderson
<b>P7M</b>	Mrs E Murphy
<b>Learning Support</b>	Miss I Wilson
<b>Harberton Support</b>	Mrs S McQuoid

## High Standards of Attendance and Punctuality

At Nettlefield PS we have the highest expectations for your children. We want them to grow up to be responsible members of society that succeed in many areas of life. To do that we expect pupils to arrive to school on time and to attend every day. 40% of pupils in Northern Ireland miss 10 days or more of school each year. This equals two weeks of important learning at Nettlefield.

Please ensure that letters are sent to your child's class teacher explaining reasons for absence. This is essential. In order to help with giving reasons to school for absences, you can now complete a short form that will go directly to the school office. We will promote this on Seesaw and our school website, but the link is <https://forms.office.com/r/XDnUDKkJvZ> it must be entered exactly as seen.

## **Our School Day**

Our school day begins for all children from 8.45am when classrooms open and 8.55am when formal teaching begins. **Any child who arrives late must be taken to the school office.**

Pupils in P1 – P3 will be released to go home at 1.55pm daily whilst P4 – P7 pupils will be released at 2.55pm (Monday – Thursday).

On Fridays, all pupils are free to leave from 1.55pm to help administer staff planning and preparation time.

**Due to ongoing child protection and welfare developments we can no longer allow Primary 4 pupils to walk home alone.** This will now begin from Primary 5 onwards. We would ask that Primary 4 pupils are now collected by a parent or carer at the end of their day.

## **On Site Expectations**

We would ask that parents would continue to use the one way system as much as possible. This helps to keep a healthy flow around school. Using the same entry point should only be as a last resort.

Please keep a 2m distance away from staff and others, not everyone is vaccinated yet and we must all be mindful of the needs of others. Mask guidance has not been removed yet, so please do not be shocked when teaching and non teaching staff still choose to wear them.

**Please be mindful of the yellow zones outside P1-P3 doors, adults should not be standing inside them.**

## **School Fund**

**School Fund** this year is priced at **£5 per child or £10 per family.** This covers Arts and Craft Materials for Primary 1 – 3 and increased photocopying costs for P4 – P7 pupils. We would ask that this is donated by the end of September 2021 if possible. Many Thanks.

## **School Crossing Patrols / Inappropriate Parking**

We would ask that all pupils use the school crossing patrol people at the key locations on Cherryville St, My Lady's Road and Ravenhill Road. All crossing points are very dangerous and we are very fortunate to have our crossing patrol staff to help us. Please use them to cross the road.

We also ask that families do not park cars for drop off on the yellow, zig zag lines outside the various areas of school. This is a particular problem at Cherryville Street. Please expect Mr McLean to remind you that it is a danger to pupils to part on zig zag lines, we hope you will not be too offended.

## **School Dinners**

School dinners can be purchased for £2.60 per day or £13.00 per week. To find out if your child is entitled to Free School Meals please check at the school office. This is incredibly helpful to school and families. If you are on working tax credits you can still be entitled to free school meals, please call in to us and enquire about the online process for applying for Free School Meals and Uniform Grants.

## Healthy Breaks

Break will be moving back to our traditional snack format but until then we must stress that Healthy Breaks are essential. We hope you find this table helpful for planning a break for your child. We also ask that one item is sent daily, often parents can be concerned that their child will be overly hungry and more food than is appropriate for a child can be given.

Examples of Healthy Break	Please do not send
Water	Fruit Juice
Milk	Squash/Diluting/Cordial
Fruit (Grapes *must* be halved to prevent choking)	Fizzy Drinks
Vegetables	Sweets
Crackers	Chocolate
Cheese	Items with Nutella or Chocolate Spreads
Pancakes	Nuts
Unsweetened Yoghurt	Dessert Bars
Boiled Eggs	Heavily sugared cereal bars

## Nut Allergies

We have a number of pupils in school who suffer from an allergy to nuts. This is a serious condition and can in fact, be life threatening. This means that **Nettlefield PS is a nut aware school** and we are asking that no nut or nut products be sent into school with your child. Even giving your child nut products before coming to school could present a danger to pupils who suffer from an allergy through physical contact or even on the breath of pupils. We thank you greatly for your support in helping to keep our pupils safe and well.

## Seesaw

Seesaw, our digital learning platform will be re-launched this year for all pupils. Parents who still remember their login details for the **FAMILY app** can contact their child's teacher now as the details have moved on from one year to the next.

This year, pupils will not need a QR code to scan but will need to remember their C2k Username. This will be easier to enter and along with a special password means that children can access their **CLASS app** quicker.

**Please expect Seesaw Login Details this week. Should any family require tech help or devices support please do get in touch with school.**

**Please note** Teaching staff will not be available to discuss issues at the classroom door. Please do not contact them unless via the school office telephone or via Seesaw. **Also note** that any Seesaw messages received during the school day from families will only be responded to in the afternoon up until the time the school building closes.

## Mobile Phones

We do not encourage pupils to bring mobile phones to school. We realise that these are expensive items and when lost or taken can make children become very upset. As a school Nettlefield can take no responsibility for lost or damaged mobile devices.

We realise that children need messages for home arrangements at various times. We would ask you to contact the school office with changes in home arrangements so that the message can be properly delivered to your child. We thank you for your understanding in this area.

## Holiday Dates

Holiday Dates have been confirmed for the incoming year and are listed as follows:

<b>TERM 1</b>	SCHOOL STARTS:	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
	AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY:	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 (School Closed)
<b>HALF TERM</b>	SCHOOL FINISHES:	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at 2.00pm
	SCHOOL CLOSED:	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
	SCHOOL RECOMMENCES:	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	SCHOOL FINISHES:	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021 at 12.00pm (noon)
	SCHOOL CLOSED:	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021 – Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>TERM 2</b>	SCHOOL RECOMMENCES:	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>HALF TERM</b>	SCHOOL FINISHES:	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 2.00pm
	SCHOOL CLOSED:	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
	SCHOOL RECOMMENCES:	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022 at 9.00am
<b>EASTER</b>	SCHOOL FINISHES:	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 12.00pm (noon)
	SCHOOL CLOSED:	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>TERM 3</b>	SCHOOL RECOMMENCES:	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 9.00am
	MAY BANK HOLIDAY 1:	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022 (School Closed)
	SCHOOL DEV. DAY	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 (School Closed to Pupils)
	JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022 (School Closed)
	SCHOOL FINISHES:	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 12.00pm

## **Uniform 2021 – 2022**

All pupils look very smart on their first day back. We were very pleased to see the new jumpers being worn so proudly. **Please be aware that our school jumper colour is now green only.**

We would ask parents/carers to ensure that names are on everything that may be removed in school.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Primary One</u></b> <b><u>Boys</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">White Polo Shirt Logo V neck jumper (Green only) Grey trousers Black school shoes (no trainers)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE Kit</b> Plimsoll gutties only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Primary One</u></b> <b><u>Girls</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">White Polo Shirt Logo V neck jumper or cardigan (Green only) Grey skirt or pinafore Grey tights / White Socks Black school shoes (no trainers or heels)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE Kit</b> Plimsoll gutties only</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Primary Two to Seven</u></b> <b><u>Boys</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">White shirt Logo V neck jumper (Green only) Official school tie Grey trousers Black school shoes (no trainers)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE Kit</b> White polo shirt, Navy or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms Trainers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Primary Two to Seven</u></b> <b><u>Girls</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">White shirt Logo V neck jumper (Green only) Official school tie Grey skirt or pinafore Grey tights / White Socks Black school shoes (no trainers or heels)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE Kit</b> White polo shirt, Navy or black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or thicker leggings Trainers</p>
<p><b>Please note:</b> After parent consultation as well as for health and safety reasons, the wearing of earrings or any other jewellery is not permitted at Nettlefield. We kindly ask parents to partner with us in this area. <b>Pupils who do not remove jewellery will be unfortunately unable to take part in PE due to health and safety reasons.</b></p> <p>We would also like to advise that ‘Number One’ grade haircuts, hair colours or artistic designs shaved into heads are also unacceptable.</p> <p>Any form of hair accessories or headwear would prefer to be in school colours (Maroon / Green) or black.</p> <p>School ties may be purchased from the school office currently priced at £4.50. The only one expected item of clothing from <a href="http://www.signatureschools.co.uk">www.signatureschools.co.uk</a> would be our green v neck jumper. All other items are optional.</p>	

### **Covid-19 Cases**

**As cases in our area are rising very, very quickly, we would like to raise some areas of guidance for dealing with Covid-19 moving forward.**

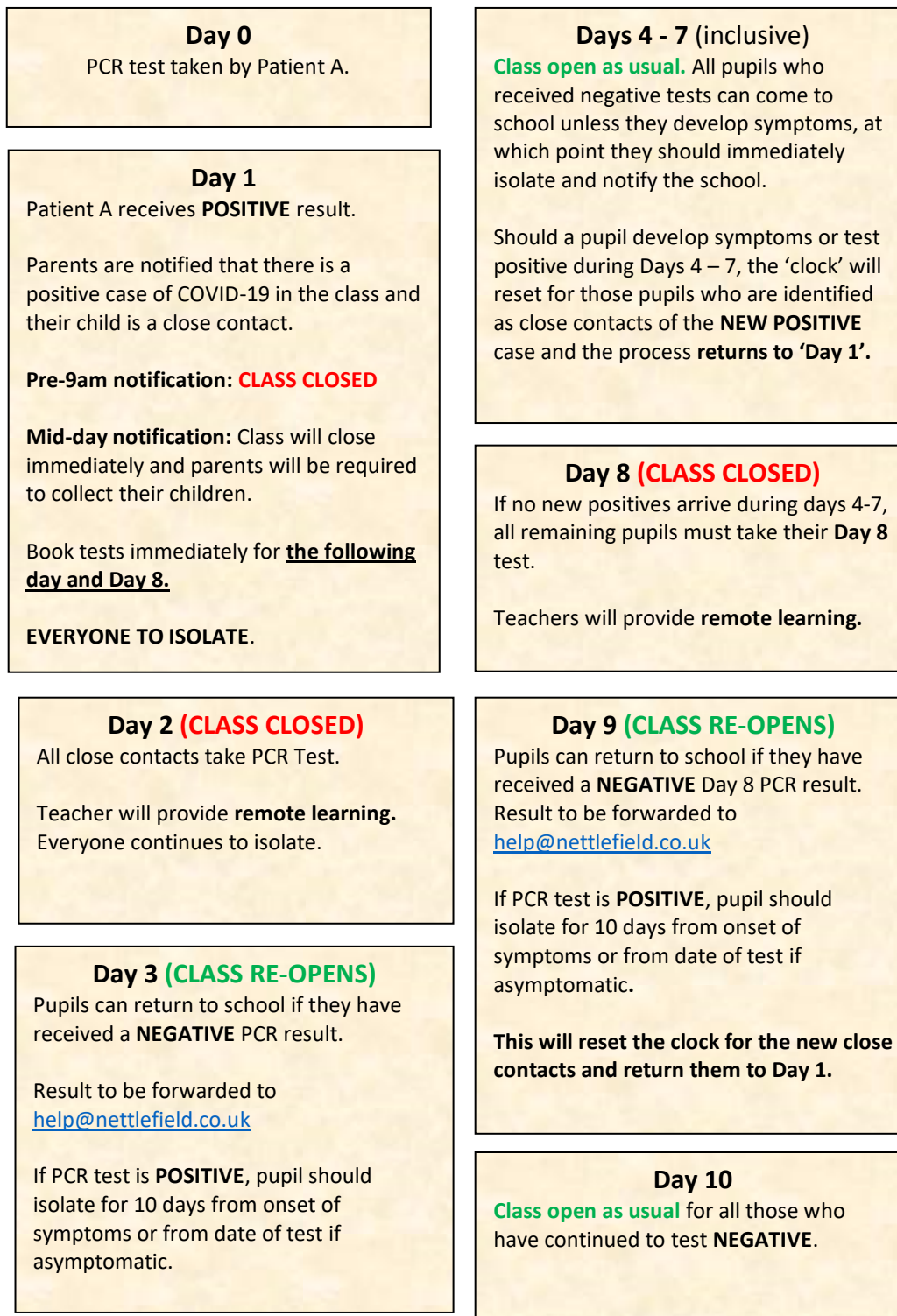
**Note:**

The diagram represents the interpretation and application of the most up to date DE/PHA guidance for schools, within the context of Nettlefield PS. We fully expect it to be a starting point only, from where procedures will be reviewed and evolve as the term progresses. We hope you find it helpful.

We ask that all PCR tests are forwarded to [help@nettlefield.co.uk](mailto:help@nettlefield.co.uk)

Whilst still disruptive, we are hopeful that this approach will mean children need to be out of school for less time than before.

We are very conscious that COVID numbers across NI are high so **if your child is symptomatic at all, or has been identified as a close contact, please do not send them to school. Isolate them, notify us, and book a test immediately.**



## **Medication in School**

Please note that parents and carers are responsible for providing the school with full information regarding any possible medical conditions or requirements for their child.

It is school policy that any medication for pupils that can be administered at home, should be. However, if it is necessary for a pupil to be given medication while in school we ask that a responsible adult come into school to do so. If this is not possible, the school will give medication only on completion by the parent/carer of a school Administration of Medicine form.

The medicine must then be delivered to the school office by the parent/carer in the labelled container that has been provided by the pharmacist. Medication should not be removed from this container and put in another packet, nor should medication ever be sent with a child. Please note that medication to be sent home from school must be collected by a parent/carer.

If your child suffers from Asthma/breathing problems, please ensure that an in-date inhaler and up to date information regarding the condition is held by this year's teacher; the same applies to Epi-pens. These have an approximate one-year lifespan.

**For more information, please see our Medical Coordinator Mrs Maxwell via the school office.**

## **Chicken Pox / Measles**

As always, we ask for your cooperation in an important matter. We have both pupils and staff members who have no immunity to chicken pox, measles or shingles. It is therefore **essential** to keep the risk of infection to a minimum.

The best way to protect our school family from measles is for all children at school to be immunised. If your child has not already received the vaccine, please discuss immunisation with your GP. If your child is suspected of having measles you should let us know immediately.

Our school family members are also at risk from chicken pox and would need to be given medical attention very quickly within contact of the illness. If your child is suspected of having chicken pox you should let us know immediately.

It is important that you let us know if there are shingles in your household.

Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of others within our school family who are at risk does depend on the cooperation of all other parents and carers.

We hope you can continue to help us make Nettlefield a safe place for everyone.