



Mill Water School

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Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to spring term 2022 as well as my personal thanks for the many cards and gifts received. I hope you and your families had a lovely Christmas break. It has been wonderful to hear about the range of activities your children have been up to. From new puppies to the latest technology, I think Father Christmas did a great job.

We have a range of exciting events planned already such as theatre trips and visiting artists and we fully intend to take up and provide as many opportunities as the government restrictions will allow. I'm sure I am not alone in looking forward to 2022 in the hope that it will see us return to a society that we recognise. Currently, our risk assessments don't require updating and we can function as we did in December. Let's hope we continue with low numbers of cases like last term. In line with government guidance, we are ventilating the building as much as we can which means it is cooler than usual for school.

A few reminders for you:

- Please provide a negative lateral flow test before any appointment in school. We are asking all visiting professionals to do the same.
- Please ensure your child doesn't attend school if acutely ill or showing any symptoms of covid: new/continuous cough/change to taste/smell and/or a high temperature.
- Please ensure your contact details are up to date and we have two emergency contacts for your child. There is an expectation that someone is always able to collect your child from school in case of illness and/or emergencies.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 7.
- Anyone with symptoms who is unable to take a test will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

We have received the following communication from the Schools Immunisation Team:

"Dear parents and carers,

You will be aware that children aged 12-15 are now eligible to receive two doses of the Covid-19 vaccination. If your child needs a first dose you can still book an appointment through the national booking service. Second dose appointments are also now available and this appointment needs to be 12 weeks after the first vaccine or 12 weeks after a positive Covid-19 test. The school aged immunisation service will be attending most schools between February and April to vaccinate eligible children, where we have a positive consent and will be offering first and second doses. However, in the meantime if your child is due a first dose or is already eligible and you would like to access their 2nd dose vaccine via your local vaccine centres, they currently have plenty of capacity outside of school hours, this can be booked via the National Booking System now by following this link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119, Greendale in Exeter is offering walk-in centres for this age group in the evenings and at weekends. Please note that several local vaccine centres are now also offering vaccines for this age group so no one should have to travel too far to receive these vaccines. Also please note the centres will adapt their clinics to meet the needs of the population so if you cannot initially book an appointment in your local centre please do keep trying as more will become released regularly.

The School Aged Immunisation Programme will also be continuing to offer Immunisations for HPV, DTP, MenACWY and Flu alongside providing Covid-19 vaccinations. The programme is changing to meet requests from NHS England and to meet local need. We will be in touch with details of sessions at your child's school throughout the academic year."

Best wishes

School Age Immunisation Team

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Pickering', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Pickering
Headteacher