

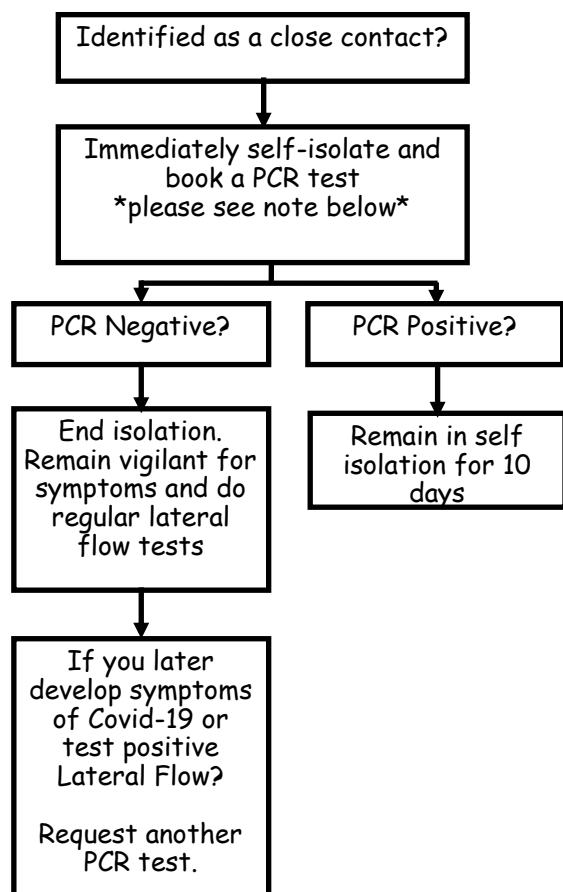
Baltasound Junior High School Newsletter - August/September 2021

A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for EVERYONE!



SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new term. As you will be aware, the COVID landscape continues to change and the guidance has been modified since we left in June.



One of the biggest changes is that our primary pupils are no longer required to wear face coverings in school or on school transport. The need for face coverings now only applies to Secondary pupils and staff; as soon as the position changes on this, I will let you know.

There is also a change around the procedures to follow if there is a positive case within the school and the need for whole year groups or bubbles to self-isolate has been removed. The new procedure for school pupils is on the flow chart shown.

A close contact is defined as someone who has been within 2m of a positive case for a period of 15 minutes or more.

Combined with our existing controls (good ventilation, CO² monitors in classrooms, hand sanitising stations and face coverings) this will hopefully minimise disruption this year.

There will be changes during the year communicated to us from the Scottish Government and as we interpret this, we will share the latest guidance with you as quickly as possible.

I know I speak for all the school staff when I say we are so happy to see the pupils back after the holidays (and seeing how much they've grown!) and we all look forward to working with the pupils and their families over the year ahead.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

TERM DATES

OCTOBER HOLIDAYS: MON 11th OCT - TUE 26th OCT (first day back Wed 27th Oct)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS: WED 22nd DEC - WED 5th JAN (first day back Thu 6th Jan)
EASTER HOLIDAYS: MON 4th APR - MON 18th APR (first day back Tue 19th Apr)
SUMMER HOLIDAYS: MON 4th JUL (last day on Fri 1st July)
OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS: FRI 25th FEB, MON 28th FEB + 2 additional days (one set by the BJHS Parent Council and clarification on the Lerwick UHA date is still to come).

BJHS VALUES: READY | RESPECTFUL | SAFE

STAFFING

Staffing changes this term include Ms Nicholson (Social Subjects) is now a permanent member of staff. Mrs Martin (Music) is leaving BJHS to take up a new position as piano instructor; we are pleased to announce that Anne-Karine Strachan will take up the post soon afterwards.

Mrs Hunter is in school all week this session supporting some of our pupils with Additional Support Needs and Mrs Fordyce is also working with some pupils and adding to her existing commitment as Lower Primary Teacher (job-share with Mrs Johnson) and Early Years Teacher.

As we were unable to recruit to the position of Business & Computing Teacher, Mr Thomson will continue to teach these subjects and the funding allocated to the school for this post is being used to provide extra Learning Support Worker hours for Anna Niven and Hazel Spence - making sure all our learners across the school have the necessary support in school. The majority of our Pupil Equity Funding is also being used to support pupils in this way.

SQA (PUPILS IN S4)

The SQA have announced that they plan to have an exam diet in 2022. This will mean our S4s studying National 5 courses will need to be prepared for exams at the end of the year. There are contingency plans in place if the COVID situation changes and student's work over the year may still be needed.

Homework club after school MON/TUE/WED/FRI is available to all Secondary pupils - please speak to Mr Thomson, Mr Spence or Mrs Fraser if you would like to attend on any of these days.

THE SWAN

We were very lucky to have the opportunity to go on the Swan Sail Training vessel this past week. Our P5 to S2 pupils enjoyed this experience greatly and hopefully some may consider taking up further similar opportunities or perhaps even a career on the ocean waves.

Thanks to Cooke Aquaculture for sponsoring this opportunity and the Swan crew for allowing us to take the helm!



NEW POLYCRUB

At the end of last year we were fortunate to be allocated funding from both Cooke Aquaculture and The Sandison Trust to purchase and install a giant polycrub in the Primary end of the school. Sandisons have been busy over the Summer clearing the space and assembling it. It looks fantastic (check out the pictures on our Facebook page) and it's been in regular use since our return. Huge thanks to everyone involved.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & PARENT COUNCIL

At the start of the year we would look to have an AGM and form a new parent council. It would be great to have as many parents as possible helping us improve our school. We would also be looking for parents to be part of our improvement plan priorities this year (Recovery & Resilience, Literacy/Writing and Outdoor/Play Based Learning). Check your emails for more information on how **YOU** can help us make a positive change in **OUR** school.