



The Best That We Can Be
Devonshire Primary Academy

Devonshire Road, Blackpool, FY3 8AF
Tel: 01253 478271
Email: admin@devonshire.blackpool.sch.uk
Website: www.devonshire.blackpool.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr D.P. Simm BA (Hons) PGCE



Company registered by guarantee
Registered in England No: 08597962

Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our learners and families; I hope you enjoyed the festive break. It was lovely to see our pupils back in school on Wednesday; all of our staff are looking forward to the Spring Term and we are absolutely committed to supporting our children to ensure that they continue to receive the very best education throughout the ongoing pandemic.

I would also like to welcome a number of new staff to the Devonshire team. Miss Sweeney and Miss Hayhurst, who will be teaching Brown Class and Turing Class respectively, and also Miss Lowe, Miss Mack, Miss Duffy and Mr Parker, who will be supporting classes throughout school.

As you will no doubt be aware, the challenges brought about by the latest Covid-19 variant (Omicron) have placed an unprecedented strain on staffing levels across the country. I am delighted that we, at Devonshire, have managed to open fully following the Christmas break, and our staff will continue to make every effort to provide high quality education to all of our learners.

However, I am mindful that we must always maintain a safe environment for all. Unfortunately, as a result of the ongoing pandemic and Government guidance regarding isolating, there may come a point where a significant number of teachers are absent. Unfortunately, it is possible that high levels of staff absence may result in a class or year group closure; this could also happen at very short notice. Please be assured that we will make every effort to remain open fully and any decision we make regarding a class or year group closure will not be taken lightly and would be a last resort. In the event of any closure, remote learning will be reinstated.

It is imperative that you support our Covid-19 protective measures and advice. Working together is the best possible way to avoid any significant impact on our learners' education. We share regular information on Parentapp and Class Dojo and it is important that parents and carers keep as much up to date as possible. As a reminder, we are asking for you to support us by:

- Taking your child for a PCR test and keeping them at home if they are showing one or more symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature/ a new continuous cough/ a loss or change in sense of smell or taste).
- Administering daily lateral flow tests to your child if they have been identified as a close contact, but they remain symptom free. Daily lateral flow tests must be administered for 7 days from the date of a positive test, or 10 days from the last contact with the positive case, whichever testing period ends first. Your child can continue to attend school during this time, unless they begin to show one or more symptoms of Covid-19.
- Keeping in regular contact with our Attendance Officer regarding any pupil absences.
- Supporting home learning, when necessary.
- Only entering the school office if it is absolutely necessary. If you do have to enter the school office, a face covering must be worn.
- Wearing a face covering when dropping off and collecting children from school.



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL

- Limiting movement on the school playground at the end of the day. Please can parents refrain from cutting through the playground at the end of the day and instead, walk around the perimeter of school to collect children from the appropriate gate.

Thank you for your continued support and, on behalf of the whole Devonshire team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

D. P. Simm

Mr D. P. Simm
Headteacher