



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
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Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 7 Issue 8



Apologies that the newsletter did not come out on Friday as usual. There was a great deal happening that we needed to digest as a team before we relayed to you as parents and carers what impact these notifications would have on the way that we operate as a school.

We heard on Friday that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has told the government it had not authorised the daily use of the 30-minute tests in schools because of concerns that they give people false reassurance if they test negative. (Link to article: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/14/regulator-refuses-to-approve-mass-covid-testing-schools-in-england>)

The SET have recommended that we do not undertake daily testing of close contacts of infected children using lateral flow services to allow them to remain at school. They have recommended that any close contacts of infected children be asked to self-isolate for 10 days in line with the previous protocol.

As a school we were already considering this because of the information that we heard in the week from The Today Programme (You can listen for yourself on the sounds app, Radio 4 – 13th January 7.09am, when Professor John Deeks discusses the Lateral Flow Tests and the challenges of using them in schools.

Like the majority of schools and colleges in Staffordshire, we have not yet had any positive results, our intention was to take this proposal forwards for discussion at our Academy Council meeting. Events have overtaken this and we will therefore NOT be carrying out daily testing over a 7 day period of anyone who has a positive Lateral Flow Test. The person who has had a positive test and ALL close contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days.

As you know, we have been offering tests to the small number of students who are back in school and for some of them, they have required some support in order to gain a viable sample to be tested (see Caitlyn's article below). On Friday, Staffordshire Health and Safety also recommended that we stop supporting students who need help with their Lateral Flow Test. Therefore, the only children that will be tested are those who can completely independently undertake a Lateral Flow Test.

Please ring school to discuss if you have any concerns about testing or if you wish to reconsider sending your child into school if they are already in school.



Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response :
0800 1313 126
Outside office hours:
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:
01782 235100
Outside office hours:
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team :
0300 123 5012 Option 2
Outside office hours:
0300 123 5022

Shropshire

Referral Team:
01743 254 259
Initial Contact Team:
0345 678 9021
Outside office hours:
0345 678 9040

Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response –
0845 604 2719

Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care –
0800 561 0015

Blackfriars' news brought to you by our reporter, Caitlyn



On the 6th January 2021, I came into school like it was any other day... but, it wasn't like any other day!

I knew I was going to have the coronavirus test but I didn't know I was going to be the first student having the test at Blackfriars!

I was calm when I was going in the room. The staff made me feel safe.

My dad told me what it would be like, but after it was done, I thought it was a lot easier than people said it was.

It made my throat sore and made me sneezy! But don't worry this is normal.

Good luck everyone, hope to see you soon!

Caitlyn has cerebral palsy which means she often moves her arms, head and legs without meaning to. We thought this would make the test quite tricky for Caitlyn but she was very brave and showed PRIDE

Home news brought to you by our reporter, Owen



Owen from Portmeirion was a witness to the aftermath of a road accident last week and sent us this report:

" This happened outside my hotel this morning there was police and an ambulance the road was very busy people trying to get past

A recovery truck came and took the van and car away

My mum took a photo and the sentinel asked to use it in there paper

One man got hurt the others were ok "

Please send us your articles, keeping us up to date with news of anything that is happening in your lives.

Scholars of the week:

Wedgwood's William for his high levels of engagement

Alex in Portmeirion for his utter determination

Gladstone's Harry and Kane for engagement and perseverance

Both **Kenzie and Steven** have been nominated because, when their laptops arrived from school, they very quickly set them up and got onto Showbie (please contact school if your child is struggling with home learning because they have not got access to a device)

Support if you are struggling because of COVID



Our friends at The Dove Service have been in touch again this year offering their fabulous support. The Dove Service are funded by the National Lottery to deliver a counselling project specifically designed to support those struggling with the impact of COVID-19 via telephone and online counselling, specifically in Staffordshire, and Cheshire. You can contact The Dove Service on 01782 683155 to find out more or make a referral

BBC Bitesize to be free for BT and EE customers



Customers using BT Mobile, EE, and Plusnet Mobile can use BBC Bitesize content from the end of January without eating into their

data allowance.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Children can access books online for free during lockdown



The initiative aims to increase access to e-books and audiobooks for the most disadvantaged

young readers during closures and support the literacy of children most affected by Covid-19

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Support if you need to calm or enliven your child



One of the most effective things that we have purchased as a school this year has been an app called CalmBrain. Staff report that it is brilliant for helping them to reduce tension, calm frayed tempers, increase concentration, turn students onto work and provide a brain break between activities. We use it in the classroom with the whole class, small groups or individuals to get them into the right mindset to start work. When you log on, there are a range of short videos that take you through a series of physical exercises to music – some strenuous, some not, most can be done sitting as well as standing – there are different

ones to energise or calm. We were absolutely delighted this week when we heard from the creator, Dr Sarah Taylor, that you can all have free access to it enabling you to use it at home. I really do recommend it.

All you need to do is contact:

calmbrainsupport@calmbrainapproach.com, providing the following information:

Parent first and last name. NOTE: they do not need the name of the child.

Parent's email address.

The name of the school their child attends.

We would strongly encourage you to watch the short videos at www.calmbrainapproach.com to help you understand what CalmBrain is and then use it to help calm or invigorate your child (we recommend it for parents and carers as well!!!)