

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December 2021



It has been an extremely difficult year for all of us, and firstly we would like to thank all our patients for their continued support and understanding during this time. 2021 has been a time of many challenges and unfortunately there are likely to be more obstacles to come given the constantly changing situation surrounding Covid.

However, we will remain open, our doors will stay unlocked and we will continue to offer patients the choice to be seen either face to face or to have a telephone appointment as appropriate for their clinical need. We will be continuing to ask anyone who comes into the building to wear a face mask to protect other patients and staff in line with NHS guidance.

Over the past year we have made many changes to the way our appointments are scheduled, offering a mix of face to face and telephone slots and introducing video consultations according to patient need. The demand on our services is very high, and we continually review our working practices to ensure we are providing the best service we possibly can.

We have also opened a brand new Nursing Suite in the Basement at the rear of the building, creating two well equipped dedicated treatment rooms for our Nurses. Our entire Nursing Team – Practice Nurses, Health Care Assistant and Phlebotomist (blood tests) are now located in the basement, and in addition to providing enhanced facilities for nursing care, this has also created more space on our clinical floor for our GPs and allows more social distancing in the Waiting Area.

We are also delighted to announce that Dr Irina Feoktistova will be staying with us as a salaried GP from the middle of January 2022. Many of you will already have met Dr Irina and we are sure you will agree she will strengthen our clinical team for the future.

We have also been working hard on the Covid Vaccination Programme in conjunction with the Vaccination Centre at Cinderford. However, there is still more to be done and whilst the Centre Staff are taking a short break over Christmas, they will be open again and ready to welcome patients in the run up to New Year. If you have not yet had all your vaccines then please go along as soon as you can. The opening times for the Cinderford Centre are listed below, and full details about the vaccine rollout and current eligibility criteria can be found on the Forest GP Surgeries Website on the Covid Booster Vaccination Page (www.forestgpsurgeries.co.uk). Updates are also posted regularly on our Facebook page.

The Centre at Cinderford will be open as follows:

Monday 27th December 2021:	13.40 to 17.30
Tuesday 28th December 2021:	08.45 to 12.30 / 13.40 to 17.30
Wednesday 29th December 2021:	08.45 to 12.30 / 13.40 to 17.30
Thursday 30th December 2021:	08.45 to 12.30 / 13.40 to 17.30
Friday 31st December 2021:	08.45 to 12.30 / 13.40 to 17.30

Just a gentle reminder that the Centre closes for lunch between 12.30 pm and 13.40 pm, and anyone attending during that time will need to wait until the Centre re-opens. You also now do not need to wait for 15 minutes after your vaccination (unless indicated by an existing medical condition).

Changes to the Dispensary Opening Times

We will be extending the temporary opening times currently in place for our Dispensary until the end of January 2022 and will review the situation again then. The Dispensary is open daily between 8.30 am and 12.30 pm and from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Please bear the amended opening times in mind when coming to the Surgery to collect your medication.

A gentle reminder to please allow 5 working days from ordering your medication to collection.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Our opening times over the Christmas and New Year period will be as follows:

Friday 24 th December 2021 (Christmas Eve)	Open as Usual
Monday 27 th December 2021 (Christmas Holiday)	Closed
Tuesday 28 th December 2021 (Boxing Day Holiday)	Closed
Wednesday 29 th December 2021	Open as Usual
Thursday 30 th December 2021	Open as Usual
Friday 31 st December 2021 (New Year's Eve)	Open as Usual
Monday 3 rd January 2022 (New Year's Day – Substitute)	Closed
Tuesday 4 th January 2022 onwards	Open as Usual

If you need urgent medical assistance whilst we are closed, please call 111 or 999 who will be able to help you.

With best wishes for the Festive Season

From all of us here at the Surgery, once again we would like to thank all our patients for their understanding and support over the last year, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas with your family and friends and a very Happy New Year.

