

Headteacher's Blog May Half-Term 2020

Planning for Partial Reopening

We are continuing with our preparations for accepting additional pupils into school. Thank you for your valued responses and decisions on when you would prefer your children to return. We are fully supportive of your views and know that you need to look to your own family circumstances.

Any move out of our home 'bubbles' is not without risk. I have been working with Northumberland County Council Health and Safety Team, the Diocesan Education Team, Wardhadaway HR Department, the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors and all staff members to discuss and prepare risk assessments and plan what our wider provision could look like. A whole school 'return' risk assessment is in place and will be reviewed weekly, alongside individual staff risk assessments that need to be in place. Where necessary, some staff have had adjustments made to their duties, in line with our risk assessments. If you have requested that your child/children returns to school, please let us know if we need of any changes to their medical needs which under the current circumstance may mean they need an individual risk assessment.

We will not know the Government's decision about wider reopening until on, or before, 28th May. At that point, myself and the Governors will confirm our opening date. There is variation locally, for example, Berwick Partnership of schools delaying until 8th June at least, whereas Alnwick Partnership currently has a mix of possible start dates, with some schools, for example, not having Y6 pupils back until 12th June at the earliest. Some schools are also not opening for all five days or finishing earlier.

Whatever our return date, I can confirm we will be open Monday to Friday, 8.30am-3.00pm. Our current provision continues for critical worker families, including during half-term, as needed.

Our recently appointed Caretaker accepted additional hours with his other part-time employer and left us at the start of May. As the current DfE guidance involves regular cleaning and disinfecting during the school day, myself and the staff on the current rota have been carrying out these duties ourselves. NCC Health and Safety Team are happy with our arrangement to continue, rather than seeking to appoint a new Caretaker during this challenging time, as all statutory testing is up to date, COSHH risk assessments etc. are appropriate

and in place. We are following the Government's cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance and will review this weekly.

Pupil, staff and our community health and safety are paramount, so we will depend on everyone to stay at home if any household members show any signs of Covid-19, until a negative test is achieved, or they have self-isolated for 14 days. Any pupils, or staff, who develop symptoms will be isolated until they leave the premises.

WHO Symptoms List:

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization.

Most common symptoms:

- fever.
- dry cough.
- tiredness.

Less common symptoms:

- aches and pains.
- sore throat.
- diarrhoea.
- conjunctivitis.
- headache.
- loss of taste or smell.
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes.

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- chest pain or pressure.
- loss of speech or movement.

Please see attached ideas for holiday wellbeing activities.

Take care and stay safe!

Diane Lakey