

Headteacher's Blog June 2020

PSHE/RSHE

Following our stakeholder consultation time, our updated policies and scheme of work will be adopted and in place for the statutory deadline of September 2020. Thank you for your support with this.

Partial Reopening-further details

We had a successful wider reopening last week, in our two 'bubble' groups. It was great to see so many pupils happy to be back in school. I am immensely proud of the staff who have worked so hard, going above and beyond what is usually expected, at a time when they are understandably anxious about the risks associated with the extended opening of schools. Thank you for the families who have supported their child's/children's return: providing pillowcases for KS2 pupils; sending children in clean clothes daily etc. For those of you who have chosen not to send eligible children back, we are fully supportive of your views and know that you need to look to your own family circumstances.

Over the last few weeks, I have been working with Northumberland County Council Health and Safety Team and the Diocesan Education Team to determine the maximum number of pupils we can safely accommodate on site. This has included measuring classrooms; checking levels of ventilation and removing hard to clean items. We have a bespoke risk assessment and will shortly be full to our safe capacity, in line with the Department for Education guidance. Once we reach this capacity, this may mean we cannot open to all eligible year groups, taking into consideration the size of our school, separate entrances and toilet facilities for each 'bubble' and staff who are able to attend.

Priority will be given in the following order: key/critical worker families; vulnerable pupils; Nursery; Reception; Year 1; then Y6. Therefore, last week we requested any further critical workers requiring a place, let us know. Parents who are critical workers and have had 'sessions' over the last 9 weeks will now need to decide if their child/children are coming in **full time** or not taking a place. Similarly, if your child is in an eligible year group and does not take up their place, we cannot guarantee a place in later weeks. Please can you let us know by Friday 12th June, if you are eligible and need a place, so we can broaden the definition of 'vulnerable pupils and support as many families as possible.

This situation will be continually reviewed following Government advice and updates to our risk assessments, such as a change to the 2m rule. We will keep you informed as far as possible of changes as they arise.

I hope that all of our families will continue to follow the Government guidance in full to protect our pupils, staff and school family. 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 hospitalisation.

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.

Thank you for your patience and support during this extraordinary time.

Diane Lakey