



Ringway, Guidepost, Northumberland, NE62 5YP

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Headteacher: Mrs L Robson

Newsletter 2

1st November 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to Autumn 2 term. I hope you have all enjoyed a restful break and lots of Halloween festivities.

Thank you to those who managed to find some time over the half term break to complete the House challenge. Teaching staff have enjoyed looking through the photos and we have had some amazing pictures brought into school. Both the photos and pictures will allow us to create an autumn display in the school hall.

As we move into the new half term, we have many exciting events planned in the lead up to Christmas but as you will have seen, guidance issued by Northumberland County Council have asked us to consider additional control measures in school.

At this stage I am confident that our school remains safe and therefore we will continue to operate as we are. If we start getting cases in school we will carefully monitor and implement our contingency plan when needed.

The measures Northumberland County Council have asked us to consider and how school are addressing these:

Testing for household contacts

We will ask any child who is a household close contact of a Covid 19 case to please have a PCR test. Children will be able to return to school on receipt of a negative result.

Face coverings

This will be optional for any parents and staff on site. Any visitor into the school building will be asked to wear a mask.

Reducing mixing between year groups and classes

We currently operate as 'double bubbles' with Year 1 and 2 mixing and sharing facilities, Year 3 and 4 sharing and Year 5 and 6 sharing. Reception and nursery/playgroup have their own facilities but they do share the hall at lunchtime with Years 1 and 2 (tables are separated by more than 2 metres). Reception also share the Year 1 and 2 outside playground at lunchtime.

We will continue to monitor the situation in school and if we do start getting cases we may need to separate into individual year group bubbles for short periods of time.

Consider whether large events should continue.

At present we are still hopeful these can happen within school with some social distancing measures in place but we will need to monitor the situation in school closer to these events (Christmas Fayre and performances), and make a decision about these closer to the date. Please see planned dates below - more details will follow.

Consider whether educational trips and residential should go ahead

At present we are still hopeful these can happen as they are all planned within double bubbles and will be subject to full and thorough risk assessments taking into account public health advice. Again, we will need to monitor the situation closer to the planned dates. Please see planned dates below - more details will follow.

Continue to pay careful attention to ventilation, cleaning and hand hygiene around school.

All areas around school are well ventilated throughout the day. Children clean hands after every break, before lunch and hand sanitiser is encouraged regularly in each classroom.

We also need all families to support us in keeping our school community safe. If your child is feeling poorly and showing Covid symptoms, it is extremely important they **do not** attend school. If symptomatic they must have a PCR test (lateral flows are not to be used when displaying symptoms). By working together, we can hopefully look forward to a fun-filled half-term with very minimal disruptions to planned learning and events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Robson

Information

Attendance and Punctuality

Pupils are expected to arrive at school at their allocated start times.

Reception and KS1 (Years 1 and 2) start at 8.55am.

KS2 (Years 3,4,5,6) start at 8.45am.

Any absences must be reported to the school office on each day of absence. When leaving messages, it is important you make it clear why your child is ill and what their symptoms are. Please be honest if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid 19 – we need to continue to work together to follow guidelines and keep school as safe and healthy as possible for everyone.

Uniform and Footwear.

As the weather starts getting colder, please remember children can wear a plain black hoody or their school jumper/cardigan on PE days. They may also like to bring a spare plain black hoody or school jumper/cardigan to wear in the classrooms as we need to ensure classrooms are well ventilated throughout the day.

A reminder that footwear must be black shoes where possible. If trainers are to be worn these must be plain black school trainers. Black boots can be worn so long as they are sturdy black ankle boots and must be as plain as possible. I have noticed many children starting to attend in fashion boots with noticeable big buckles, coloured laces and/or logos which are not in line with our uniform standards and are also not safe to be worn around school. Children are taking part in PE sessions up to 3 times per week (only wearing PE kits for one of these sessions). Commander Joes sessions often take place outdoors with children wearing their uniform and therefore sturdy, well supported, footwear, is advised.

Home-School Communication

In order to minimise risk, we kindly ask that parents continue to either telephone or email the office if they need to pass messages on. Class teachers will continue to use Class Dojo for reminders and to showcase activities happening in class but will no longer be using the messaging aspect on Class Dojo. **Any messages sent through Class Dojo will not be responded to.**

After-School Club

From Monday 8th November, After School Club will be bookable until 5.30pm. This must be booked and paid for via ParentPay at least 48 hours in advance and require at least 24 hours notice of cancellation to be eligible for a refund.

School Events

We are really hoping to welcome parents back into school for our fayre and performances but we will need to monitor the school situation closer to the time and follow any guidance we are given at the time of events. Please familiarise yourself with key dates for each class listed below.

Children in Need

We will be supporting Children in Need on Friday 12th November. Children are welcome to come into school wearing something bright, wearing pyjamas or something Pudsey/Blush. Donations will be able to be made via ParentPay from Monday 8th November.

Verbal Abuse

Last half term there were many incidents of staff being subjected to verbal abuse at the classroom doors. Please can we ask parents and carers to consider the tone in which they speak and address members of staff. At the same time that we are trying to protect the wellbeing of our children in school, we also need to be mindful of staff wellbeing and we will not tolerate rudeness or abuse of our staff.

School Calendar

Monday 1 st November	Non-uniform for a raffle donation
Friday 5 th November	Year 4 Bikeability
Friday 5 th November	House winners non-uniform day – Fire House
Monday 15 th November	Anti-Bullying parent workshop 3.30pm more details to follow
Tuesday 16 th November	Year 2 Multi-skills festival
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 23 rd November	Year 3 visit to 'Winter at Walltown'.
Thursday 25 th November	Polar Express night Year 3 and Year 4 (3.15pm– 5.15pm).
WB Monday 29 th November	Y2 Phonics check week
Monday 29 th November	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Fayre (3.30pm-5pm)
Tuesday 30 th November	Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 Christmas Fayre (3.30pm-5pm)
Wednesday 1 st December	Year 5 and 6 visit to Centre for Life
Thursday 2 nd December	Year 3 and 4 visit to Beamish.
Monday 6 th December	Years 1 and 2 Performances (9.30am and 1.30pm) more details to follow.
Tuesday 7 th December	Years 3 and 4 Performances (9.30am and 1.30pm) more details to follow
Tuesday 7 th December	Years 5 and 6 visit to pantomime (pm).
Wednesday 8 th December	Years 5 and 6 Performances (9.30am and 1.30pm) more details to follow.
Wednesday 8 th December	Years 3 and 4 visit to pantomime (pm)
Thursday 9 th December	Nursery/Reception Performances (9.30am) more details to follow
Thursday 9 th December	Christmas Dinner day
Friday 10 th December	Christmas Jumper day
Friday 10 th December	Virtual pantomime in school
Monday 13 th December	Nursery/ Reception Christmas Party (am) Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party (pm)
Tuesday 14 th December	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party (am) Years 5 and 6 Christmas Film Afternoon (pm)
Tuesday 14 th December	Years 1 and 2 visit to pantomime (am)
Wednesday 15 th December	Nursery and Reception visit to Beamish
Friday 17 th December	School finishes for Christmas holidays at normal time

*Year 1 and 2 visit date still to be confirmed.