



Shanklea Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Helen Brown
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Nairn Road, Parkside Chase, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 1RQ

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers



Weekly Newsletter

For as long as coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, judgements will need to be made at a school level about how to balance minimising risks from the virus by maximising control measures, with providing a full educational experience for our children.

Thus far, reduced contact has included:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- ensuring rooms are well ventilated and surfaces regularly disinfected and wiped down
- use of masks, visors and PPE as appropriate
- staff socially distancing from pupils and other staff as much as possible.
- minimising contact with anyone who is (or could be) unwell by:
 - ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days and
 - ensuring that anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home and receives appropriate care



These essential actions help to reduce the risk and further drive down any transmission of coronavirus at Shanklea Primary School.

To recap:

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Reducing transmission is important in all contexts and is something our school has considered carefully; how to implement risk reducing systems while delivering an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum. This has been mostly achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining the distance between individuals. For younger children the emphasis has been on separating groups and, for older children, has been on distancing. Older children have also been supported to maintain distance and not touch staff or other children where possible.



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The balance changes depending on:

- children's ability to distance
- the layout of our school
- keeping the distinct groups separate while offering a broad and ambitious curriculum.

Department for
Education

Government department



Department
for Education

Maintaining consistent groups has reduced the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix has made it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible.

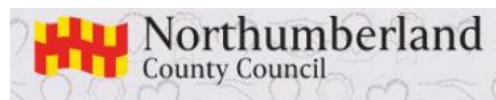
However, the use of smaller groups has restricted the normal operation of the school and presented both educational and logistical challenges, including the cleaning and use of shared spaces, such as playgrounds, dining halls, and toilets, and the provision of specialist teaching.

Individuals who are medically vulnerable and in higher risk groups have protective measures in place which, in many cases, means that they are working from home. In order to ensure compliance with our legal obligations with regard to staff safety, individual risk assessments are regularly under review.

Combinations of factors within the workplace define whether the school can remain open or has to partially close. An absolute assurance cannot be given that contracting Covid-19 is avoidable for the workforce or for the children. Rather we are doing our best to provide a safe school in very difficult circumstances.

The resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects has meant that children are in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, with limited mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching, wraparound care and transport. Siblings may also be in different groups. Endeavouring to keep these groups at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children has offered community health benefits as it reduced the network for possible direct transmission.

Some teachers and other staff have worked with different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable and catch up interventions. Where staff needed to move between classes and year groups, they have worked to keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible, ideally 2 metres from other adults. Again, we recognise this is not always possible with younger children but the guidance is teachers can still work across groups if that is needed to enable a full educational offer.



Shanklea Primary school has been swift in taking action where necessary, liaising with the DfE, Northumberland Council and Public Health England, (PHE) as well as promptly informing parents and staff in order to carefully manage these situations as they have arisen.



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There have unfortunately been confirmed cases of coronavirus within Year 3 and 4 this week, the first being on Wednesday 18th November. The school has meticulously followed Public Health England instructions and ensured that students who may have been exposed to the virus have self-isolated.

Following the two confirmed cases we decided, in consultation with the DfE and PHE, to send both year groups home to self-isolate until December 1st (Year 4) and December 2nd (Year 3). These are based on timings of possible contacts to ensure that any chance of infection is minimised.

We have continued to follow all the necessary guidelines and regulations to further reduce the risk of catching coronavirus such as: separating year groups, having hand sanitising facilities in all classrooms and extra cleaning staff working throughout the day and no other year groups have been affected.

Year 3 and Year 4 students will be able to access their work remotely, or through paper packs if they prefer, and we look forward to seeing them all back in school upon their return.

I would like to thank all of our parents, carers, children and staff for their ongoing support of the school in these uncertain times. We appreciate the problems that can arise and how the need for children to isolate can affect many people. We will continue to do everything we can to work with families to prevent the need for isolations going forward.

Safety around our school



Northumbria Police work in partnership with Northumberland Local Education and will proactively educate and enforce parking regulations. Penalty Charge Notices will be issued where a parking contravention occurs.

We have been advised that dangerous driving and inconsiderate parking, outside Shanklea Primary School, have again been reported. Complaints have been received from residents, parents and school staff highlighting the increase in inconsiderate parking and unsafe driving close to school.

For the safety of our children this cannot continue.

Parking restrictions are required for everyone's safety **BUT** predominately for the care and safety of Shanklea School students.

We need every driver to comply with ALL parking restrictions and road safety rules close to our school.

We work closely with our community to ensure that issues that may affect our local residents are discussed and resolved to a mutually beneficial level. We pride ourselves on being a good neighbour and encourage our community to also be good role models of considerate behaviour for the children. It is important that positive relations with our local community remain in place and do not diminish due to inconsiderate, dangerous parking and driving by our parents or visitors.



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It is imperative that when parents visit our school, either to drop off or pick up their children, they do so with due care and attention and do not put others at risk.

They should also give consideration to our local community and park safely and in appropriate areas. If necessary, drivers may need to park a small distance away from school and walk into the school grounds to drop off or collect their children. The Masonic Hall Car Park has been made available for this purpose.

The Police and Civil Enforcement Officers will be making regular visits to the vicinity at the beginning and end of the school day to monitor the situation. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will also observe and we will not hesitate to pass on details of car number plates if we see dangerous driving or parking in the vicinity of our school.

Please note:

- For pedestrian safety, the speed limit at the front of school is **5 MPH**. On more than one occasion, we have seen near misses due to people driving too quickly.
- Parents/carers dropping off or collecting their children are **NOT permitted** to drive into or park in the school grounds, (even for a few minutes) unless they have prior agreement from the school. In these cases, if there no car parking spaces are available, please park outside the school grounds and walk into school to collect your child(ren).
- Calling into the school office with a query at the start or end of the school day is not an excuse to park in the school grounds. This is being monitored.



We appreciate your continued support in this matter.

NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Call 0800 1111

Everyone in school has undertaken some learning based upon the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme. This has taught the children about their rights, in particular the right to be heard and be safe. It showed them how to seek support from trusted adults however big or small their worries might seem.

Further information can be found at <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe>
Resources, games and calming art activities for children can be found at <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Christmas Cards

As detailed in last week's newsletter, we will be doing lots of Christmas activities to maintain the festive fun but we do have to adapt some of our festive traditions. As part of our Covid-19 risk reduction systems, we are unable to allow children to exchange Christmas cards in school





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this year. Thank you for your understanding.



Congratulations to the **Shanklea Stars** of last week:

Reece J **Liam C** **Mason O** **Charlie P** **Emmy S** **Joey B**
Christopher D **Lily F** **Max R** **Lily S**
Imogen J **Niamh W** **Sophie K** **Grace C**

You are all amazing – Well done



Our KS2 children have been developing their sporting skills and have achieved great things in the recent virtual School Games competitions. Well done to:

Year 4 Cricket

Maisie S **Martha D** **Millie H** **Charlie B** **Joshua W** **Charlie S**

Year 5 Athletics

Ewan M **Ethan W** **Frankie A** **Ruby K** **Jessica C** **Millie C**

Year 6 Athletics

Cameron C **Freya H** **Eryn R** **Sophie M** **Josh S** **Dexter H**





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Thank you all for your continued support. Take care and stay safe!

Kind regards,

Mrs H Brown
Head Teacher

P.S. Don't forget to enter our Christmas competitions and we are collecting for those in need at Christmas:

**Festive Fun
Raffles & Competitions**

Children's Christmas Raffle £1
Adults' Christmas Raffle £1
Secret Elves Club £2
Best Decorated Window £1

Entry fees payable via the School Gateway
Raffles to be drawn on Friday 11th December 2020

Parentkind
Member Association

Foodbank Collection

Welcome to our reverse advent calendar!
Instead of opening a door every day in the run up to Christmas,

We will be collecting a box full of food to give to our local foodbank based in
Cramlington
which helps local people in crisis.

We need:

Women's deodorants	Soap powder in tablet form
Nappies – age 3 months upwards	Washing up liquid
Instant Mash	Gravy Granules
Stuffing	Christmas Puddings
Mince Pies	Custard or White Sauce Christmas

Gifts for Hampers: adult toiletries, small toys for children of all ages (gifts must be unused & in their original packaging with tag attached).

No fresh or chilled items, please. Small packets and tins are preferred!

Thank you!

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