



Shanklea Primary School

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

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Lots of fantastic learning has taken place this week, both at school and remotely, at home. We are so looking forward to welcoming our younger children back into school on **Monday 5th October 2020** as the self-isolation periods are coming to an end. Thank you so much to everyone who has adhered to the isolation rules and supported the children with their home learning. If they have school dinners, please don't forget to pre-order for next week on School Grid.

EYFS:

We would like to thank the whole of the EYFS community for responding so well to our isolation period. It hasn't been easy on any of us and we cannot thank you all enough for your positive comments and your hard work at home - children AND parents.

We cannot wait for next week where we can welcome the children back in their setting with huge big smiles.

This week we set some new work on Purple Mash and we have been delighted with the response so far, gold stars for all that have contributed!! Well done!

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and will see you on Monday, excited for school.

Key Stage 1:

All of the Key Stage 1 team want to say a huge well done to all of the boys and girls for doing such a great job with their home learning. A virtual high five to all of the adults who have been supporting the children too. We have been blown away with what has been produced at home. Everyone has worked extremely hard. We cannot wait to have everyone back in the classroom on Monday 5th October to continue with this hard working attitude.

Key Stage 2:

The teachers have been very busy over the last few weeks identifying gaps in the children's learning. They have used a range of informal methods for this as well as completing some formal assessments. The children worked very hard on these to show how much they had learnt the previous year. The results from these assessments have now been carefully analysed and intervention groups have been set up to support the children and fill any gaps in their understanding. These will begin from Monday 5th October.

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that assessments are only a small part of what we



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have been doing. The children have had many opportunities for outdoor learning, including Science experiments, writing descriptive poetry and PE, and have been engaged in a range of subjects learning about the Vikings, Space and Beyond and Ancient Egypt. The children in Year 4 made their own Egyptian Cartouches and have even been writing in hieroglyphics! All children have also enjoyed many PSHE activities where they have been able to come together as a class to discuss current issues and enjoy being back in the school community.

Keeping our school community Covid safe

Our school must assess and manage the risk of potential COVID-19 transmission and we have a legal responsibility to protect workers and others from risks to their health and safety. We are doing everything reasonably practicable to minimise risks, recognising that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19.

However, we would appeal to parents and guardians to consider carefully the restrictions on indoor and outdoor inter-household mixing in Northumberland, brought in by the Government.

These changes are in addition to existing regulations prohibiting households mixing in private homes and gardens, and have been agreed in response to high and increasing infection rates in these areas, with incidence rates over 100 per 100,000 in 6 of the 7 areas last week.

It is recognised that adherence to social distancing between individuals and households can be particularly difficult as children walk, scooter or cycle independently to and from school. Children and families should consider how they can help to minimise transmission risk and remain aware of the residual risk.

For example:

- Limiting the number of pupils walking together to and from school.
- Observing the limit of 1 family member accompanying a child onto the school site.
- Social distancing when on and around the school site and considering any impact on the surrounding space. Please take care not to impede others, particularly those with visual or hearing impairments, mobility problems and invisible disabilities.
- Ensuring large groups do not gather and obstruct paths or cycleways (for example in the underpass).
- We have a one way system inside school and around fixtures/ machines, to help prevent users from



coming into close contact with each other.

Cleaning and hygiene

Scientific advice suggests that the virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces, particularly when indoors. These risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to Ultra Violet light and/or rain. However, guidance applies to outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms where the virus could survive long enough on frequently used/touched outdoor surfaces to facilitate transmission.

- Parents and carers are advised to manage any potential risk, when children play outdoors by regular handwashing, considering high traffic touch points. This could include fulfilling cleaning regimes for:
 - playground equipment for children, usually up to age 14, such as slides, monkey bars and climbing frames
 - semi enclosed playhouses or huts for small children
 - enclosed crawl through ‘tunnels’ or tube slides
 - exercise bars and machine handles on outdoor gym equipment
 - entry and exit points such as gates
 - seating areas such as benches and picnic tables
 - refuse areas/bins
- Children should be encouraged around effective sanitation and personal hygiene.
- As announced last week, childcare bubbles will be able to form in areas of intervention to allow families to share caring responsibilities with another household, as long as they are consistent. This includes formal and informal childcare arrangements. People in support bubbles can also continue to meet in any setting.

School smart

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school setting an appropriate tone and upholding the school image. Our school policy states that all Shanklea students should wear school uniform



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when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event, unless advised otherwise.

We expect students to wear the complete uniform, always keep hair neat, avoid non-permitted accessories and always be well groomed. The information below is provided to clarify and specify the list of items needed for the school uniform. It also provides details about haircuts, shoes, accessories and general appearance.

Aims and objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- Is practical and smart;
- Identifies our students with the school;
- Makes students feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Is regarded as suitable and good value for money, by most parents/carers.

The Governors of Shanklea Primary School have agreed, for reasons of health and safety, that our policy is that no jewellery should be worn by pupils during the school day. “Jewellery” refers to earrings, rings, bracelets, neck chains and pendants.

Risk Assessment

- Wearing of jewellery can result in tearing or piercing of flesh.
- There is a potential for injury to the wearer due to inadvertent contact of jewellery with other people, clothing etc.
- There is a risk to other people especially at playtimes and PE lessons where injury could occur due to contact with jewellery worn by another person.
- There is a risk of injury to the wearer from removing tape used to cover jewellery if the tape pulls the jewellery as it is removed. Some people can also have an allergic reaction to plasters or adhesive tape.



There is one exception:

Jewellery may be worn if it is required for medical reasons. In these circumstances parents/carers must apply in writing to the Head Teacher.

PE, Games and Swimming

The wearing of jewellery in these lessons constitutes a hazard as injuries can be caused to the wearer through the jewellery being accidentally caught or knocked. Similarly contact with jewellery can cause injury to a third party.

Parents'/Carers' Responsibility

- Parents/carers will be advised of the exact details of the school's policy on the wearing of jewellery through the school prospectus, website and newsletters.
- Parents/carers should not allow their child to have their ears pierced during term time. The beginning of the 6 week summer break would be the best time in order to allow sufficient time for the wound(s) to heal.
- In the event of a child coming to school wearing jewellery, the child will be asked to remove it, if that is not possible, the parent/carer will be contacted to come to school to remove it.

Staff Responsibility

- Please note that school staff are not allowed to remove jewellery including earrings. If your child cannot do this him/herself then you will be contacted to do it.
- Staff will not, under any circumstances take any responsibility for the safekeeping of children's jewellery.
- Please note that school staff will not take any responsibility for the safeguarding of any item of jewellery, for this reason we strongly urge you not to allow your child to bring anything of any value into school.
- The school will not seek or accept as an alternative to the removal of jewellery, a parent's/carer's assurance that s/he will not hold the school liable in the event of an accident/incident.



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Assemblies

It was usual (before Covid times) that the whole school gathered together in the school hall for an assembly and an act of worship. We aimed to ensure that children experience “**awe and wonder**” during this time together - inspired by the world in which we live and that their curiosity to ask questions was fostered.

We had a range of assembly themes - some linked to the RE curriculum and some to the SEAL curriculum. On Mondays, we began the week with a Positive Behaviour theme such as '**honesty**' or '**kindness**.'

On Fridays, children enjoyed a Celebration Assembly where we focus on children that have been displaying particular values of **Caring, Excelling, Enjoying** and **Inspiring** and this was a chance to share any other achievements that they have accomplished out of school.

Throughout the week, children entered assemblies listening to different musical genres and they were given information about the artists and composers. This was intended to create the right ambiance for assembly and to mark it as a special time as well as to contribute to our music curriculum.

We were also very proud that all our pupils have opportunities to prepare and deliver their own assemblies, either independently or in small groups on a specific theme. News and World Assemblies were also part of our rota, where we discussed current affairs and global themes or crises.

In these challenging Covid times, it's more important than ever to motivate and inspire our children, by helping to bring learning to life and show children the relevance of what they are learning.

From next week, assemblies will return but virtually. Here are the themes proposed for future assemblies

Friday 2nd October	World Animal Day
6th -10th October	Walk to School week
Friday 9th October	World Mental Health Day #HelloYellow,
Friday 16th October	Black History Month
Half term holidays: School closes Thursday 22 nd October and re-opens on Monday 2 nd November	
Friday 6th November	Remembrance Sunday: 8 th November
Friday 13th November	Children in Need



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Wonderful Well-being

Nationally, lockdown is having a devastating effect on some children and young people's mental health. It's been unbelievably hard, but together, we can make a difference and show young people they are not alone. We know many of you and the young people in your lives have been going through a difficult time, and it can be hard to feel positive. **But you're not alone.**

Friday 9th October is **Young Minds Mental Health Awareness Day**. The theme is Hello Yellow! and we are asking our pupils to do just that - whether they wear some yellow socks or go the whole hog and come dressed in yellow from head to toe, we would love to see them brighten up our community.

At a time when many people are struggling with mental health issues and it can be hard to feel positive, Young Minds works to support pupils and their families. In school we will look at the importance of resilience when facing challenges but also remembering the impact that fun and laughter can have on our lives! **So we are also challenging all pupils to come to school on Friday with a joke - the worse the better - to share with their bubble!**

If you are interested in learning more about Young Minds you could go to their website <https://youngminds.org.uk/> where there is a parents helpline available. We intend to join our friends, colleagues and loved ones in a show of solidarity. By taking part in **#HelloYellow**, our support means Young Minds can help even more young people and their families at a time when it's needed most. So Shanklea Primary School will join thousands of schools, offices and community groups on **Friday 9th October** by taking part in **#HelloYellow**

It's simple: wear yellow and have fun! (No donations necessary, thank you.)

Whether we're all two-metres apart, back to normal or locked-down and keeping it virtual **#HelloYellow** should be a fun-filled day on 9 October! Why not dig out your neon socks, custard scarf and banana hat and let's show young people they're not alone with their mental health!

Here are some top tips for mental health:

"Try to keep to a routine as much as you can – eat and sleep at normal times if possible."

"Go for walks if you are able. Take photos of nature. Smile and say hello to passers-by."

"I have found that being creative has helped me so much."

"Try to remember, nothing lasts forever. You can get through this difficult time."



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"Speak out about how you feel, you will be surprised at who is willing to help you."

"Be kind to yourself. Take it hour by hour – not even day by day."

"I find minimising watching bad news on the TV helpful."

"Do something creative."

"It's okay to feel however you feel, people cope and react to things in different ways."

"Try not to put pressure on yourself to be too productive."

School Dinners

Our fantastic Catering Team continue to deliver scrumptious, nutritious meals to the children. The main courses for next week are:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fish cakes	Roast pork with Yorkshire puddings	Minced beef and dumplings	Roast turkey with Yorkshire pudding	Baked sausages

Children may also choose a packed lunch with choice of sandwich filling or jacket potato, again with choice of filling.

Please order your child's lunches on the School Grid the day before wherever possible. Our Office Team can help you if you have any problems.

Working together

We are so grateful for everyone's continuing support as we all continue to work together through these challenging times.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Brown
Head Teacher