



Shanklea Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Helen Brown
B.Ed(Priamry)Hons, Dip.(Humanities) NPQH

Telephone : 01670 715205

Email: admin@shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

Nairn Road, Parkside Chase, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 1RQ

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may have seen in the media, the Prime Minister has announced a series of new coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that came into force on Thursday 23rd September. He emphasised that it is vital that children and young people continue to receive an education, so schools (where possible) will remain open.

You will be aware that the number of COVID-19 cases is unfortunately increasing across Northumberland and this has already begun to impact on our school community.

However the positive news is that our school has responded with distinction. It has been acknowledged that 'Best practice' has been followed including identifying 'close contacts' and swiftly communicating with parents, all done with the support of our LA Public Health Team.

To continue to protect our school community, it remains vital to:

- Keep the infection control strategies firmly in place
- Try to keep bubble sizes as small as possible
- Ensure bubbles do not mix
- Keep a close record of all seating plans, to support identification of close contacts where social distancing is possible
- Ensure all staff keep socially distant from each other unless there is no alternative.

There has been some confusion nationally in terms of the guidance on when students should isolate and the following might help provide clarity:

- If a student displays symptoms of coronavirus, (i.e. a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste) they should self-isolate, arrangements made to be tested immediately and await the results of the test.
 - If a student then tests negative, they can return to school when they are feeling well and the rest of the household can stop self-isolating.
 - If a student receives a positive test result, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days.



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- If a student lives with someone (or is attached to a support bubble with someone) who is displaying the symptoms listed above, they must isolate within their home - even if they are not displaying symptoms themselves - until the symptomatic person is tested and receives the results of their test.
 - If the symptomatic test is negative and the symptoms are gone, the student can return to school and the rest of the household can stop self-isolating.
 - If the symptomatic test is positive, the student and the rest of their household must isolate for 14 days.
- If a student has recently returned from one of the countries on the government's quarantine list, they should self-isolate for 14 days from the day of their return.
- If a student is contacted by the NHS Test and Trace system and told to isolate, they should do so and must not attend school.

Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 return to school

We have contacted families to advise them that Shanklea Squirrels, Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 should return to school on **Monday 5th October 2020**.

We appreciate this wasn't what anyone wanted and we cannot wait for the children to return. It was, however, essential that everything possible was done to minimise any risk, ensuring that every self-isolation period following positive COVID-19 tests has been completed and all safety protocols followed. A deep clean by a specialist cleaning company began on Thursday 24th October 2020 following a decontamination period where the area was kept inaccessible to reduce risks as far as possible. We look forward to welcoming our younger pupils back into school.

Shanklea Superstars

We are so impressed with the positive, "can-do" attitude of everyone in our community of Shanklea superstars. Some fantastic learning has been taking place at school and at home.



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EYFS

We wanted to thank everybody who has uploaded observations on to Tapestry. You are all doing an amazing job at home and we are so proud of you all.

Please also remember that EYFS is all about learning through play. So many key skills are learnt while having fun. For example, we love to see you playing board games, which are brilliant for developing so many skills, including turn taking skills. We also love seeing you making jigsaws, playing with playdough, baking and lots of imaginary play. Please keep uploading your child's adventures so we can share in their achievements.

If you have any questions please get in touch on Tapestry.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone when we re-open on **Monday 5th October, 2020.**

EYFS Team

Key Stage 1

All of the Key Stage 1 team are so impressed with how well everyone, including all the parents and carers, has done with home learning this week. We have had some excellent pieces of work shared with us. These have included some brilliant pieces of art work inspired by Kandinsky as well as some fabulous English and Maths work.

Don't forget you can send us what you have been up to either through the Google Classroom or by email.

We look forward to see what you all produce next week. A new timetable will be emailed to everyone next week. Have a lovely weekend everyone! We're looking forward to seeing you when we re-open on **Monday 5th October, 2020.**

Key Stage 1 Team



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Key Stage 2: Learning from Home

Please note that if any pupil in KS2 has to work from home or if any class in KS2 needed to close work will be set on the Google Classroom.

In preparation for that eventuality, each class has a new Google classroom set up which the children have joined in school. This will be used to enable teachers to communicate with parents and pupils and also to provide work or links to sites.

We are hoping to provide the children with opportunities to practise accessing and returning work in school as they will be expected to return work to their teacher when it is completed.

It would be useful if all children could check they are able to access their Google classroom from home. To do this they should login to their School 360 account and click on the classroom on the home page. This should take them straight to the classrooms they belong to.

Occasionally there are complications: For example, if more than one child is logging on using the same device, they will need to click on the letter in the top right hand corner of the screen and select the correct child's School 360 account. If you do not have your child's School 360 email please contact their class teacher by email.

Most of the work will be set using the following sites and it would be useful if children could check that they can access all these sites now so we can address any issues promptly (just in case). The logins in most cases are the same as the ones issued during lockdown in March but your child should have brought home a copy of them again this week.

Please ask them to check their logins to the following resources:

- School 360 - giving access to Google Classroom, Spellblast and Busy Things
- Oxford Owl - giving access to E-books and Spelling Zone
- My Maths
- TT Rockstars
- Sumdog

If you have any issues at all please contact your child's teachers through email and they should be able to provide you with additional support.

Key Stage 2 Team



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Keeping our Children Safe

In these COVID-19 challenging times, it is especially important that parents and carers are aware of what their children are being asked to do. This includes which school staff they will interact with and which websites they will be asked to use.

We are so proud of how everyone is working together and helping each other but we do have to acknowledge that everything is still not quite back to normal. We are having to operate a mixture of in-school and home learning and have made provision to teach lessons remotely if children and their families need to self-isolate for a period of time.

Safeguarding remains an absolute priority at Shanklea Primary School and we must emphasise the importance of a safe online environment. We encourage parents and carers to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on.

The resources below can support parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.



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Flu Immunisations: 25th November 2020

We have emailed parents and carers of children in Reception to Year 6 information about the nasal flu immunisation which will take place at Shanklea Primary School on 25th November 2020. The NHS Immunisation Team sent out consent forms during the summer holidays. If you have not returned the form in the Freepost envelope provided please complete the form we have sent to you and return it to school as soon as possible.

Please note immunisations cannot be given in school without a signed consent form or at any other time.

Reading

At Shanklea we recognize the importance of reading to children's academic progress and their future prospects in life. Rigorous COVID-19 secure systems have been put in place to allow us to send perfectly pitched reading books home. Please ensure books are returned on the date specified

We hope you will continue to encourage your child to read to you and with you as often as you can. If you would like access to more books, ebooks are available on www.oxfordowl.com using one of the following logins – *shankleathree* or *shankleafour* or *shankleafive* or *shankleasix* and the password *readforfun*.

Red Squirrels Competition

Next week is Red Squirrel Awareness Week and our KS2 children have been invited to take part in a competition linking in with an exciting, local project.

In partnership with Northumberland County Council's Local Services team, the Cramlington and District Red Squirrel Group have recently been carrying out conservation work in the area to protect our local native Red Squirrels, and would like to engage with the future generation in order to bring nature conservation and species at threat, such as our native red squirrel, to people's attention from an early age.

Shanklea pupils and their families have been invited to take part in a competition to design a piece of artwork which raises awareness of the Red Squirrel. It should be on the theme of "Red squirrels and local wildlife", be drawn on A4 landscape paper with no more than 4 species of wildlife in the picture. There are lots of prizes and the overall winner will have their design transferred onto a wildlife viewing screen at East Cramlington Nature Reserve by a local artist. Entries must be returned to school by 16th October, 2020.

We will put more information about this exciting competition on our website. Good luck everyone.



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Team Shanklea

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we strive to continue to provide a safe outstanding school experience for all our children. Your support in these challenging times is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Brown
Head Teacher