

Northumberland Pupil Referral Unit

Hepscott Park

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www.pru.northumberland.sch.uk

Tuesday 12 May 2020

Dear parent/carer

I hope you are well and safe. The current situation has been challenging for parents/ carers, pupils and staff so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting us through this difficult and uncertain time. You have done an amazing job and we appreciate the efforts that you have put in to continue to support us with your child’s education.

As you will probably know, the Government has requested that schools begin to make plans to begin to re-admit children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from June 1st.  We have been informed that this should be with smaller class sizes of no more than 15, with frequent hand-washing, staggered start-times, playtimes and lunch and social distancing as far as is possible in a school (it will be impossible to keep them 2m apart).

We will be planning for the return of groups this week and will be in contact with you directly to discuss your child’s possible return and specific arrangements.

A main element of this planning will be transport arrangements. We will need to carefully consider our transport options to ensure the safety of all pupils and transport staff. It would be greatly appreciated if parents/ carers could indicate if they are able to transport their children to and from school during the short term.

It is important to be aware that, at the moment, you will not be “penalised’ by the Government if you decide not to send your child back into school and his or her attendance will not be marked as “unauthorised”.

The following guidance has been copied from the government website –

* children and young people in eligible year groups are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending
* vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected and encouraged to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so (for children with education health and care (EHC) plans this will be informed by a risk assessment approach)
* children, young people and staff who have been classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version) have been advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported to learn or work at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Few if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Staff in this category should work from home where possible, and refer to the detail in our protective measures guidance
* a child/young person or a member of staff who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education or childcare setting
* if a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [guidance on shielding](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home
* staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household
* protective measures will be put in place for staff and pupils, as far as is possible, to ensure that the risk of transmission is reduce

The government guidance states that staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households. A negative test will enable children to get back to childcare or education, and their parents to get back to work. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with the class Teacher during your weekly phone calls.

Kind regards,

Emma Blackburn.

Acting Head Teacher

February 2020

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