

New Plan for school reopening on the 30th November

Reasons for changing our practice

We have tried from the start of the Pandemic to remain open and offer the most supportive and normal experience for our pupils. Since April we have been open fulltime for many pupils, and in that time we have only had to close for 4 days before the October week and now for this fortnight. We remained open throughout and over the May holiday, and for this I am very grateful for the support and understanding that has enabled us to do so. We are aware of the impact that the 4 day closure and now this 10 day closure of school (14 day isolation) is having on our pupils, our families and staff. Throughout the Pandemic we have constantly reviewed the government guidelines, Public health advice and advice from our County Council and made changes as and when they are needed. With our current situation in mind we have reassessed our current practice, taken on board concerns raised by parents and have come up with the following plan:-

Oak class will be in a bubble in their classroom, with their staff, have access only to specific toilets and will have a scheduled time to be on the main yard.

Sycamore and Beech will be one bubble but remain in their individual classrooms with own staff and only have access to specific toilets and changing/personal hygiene rooms. A shared bubble is to enable these two classes to have as unlimited access to the same outdoor space, the main yard, as and when is needed to support the children's health and wellbeing as well as to support behaviour. The main yard is their only access to outdoor space however we will endeavour to keep the children and staff separate.

Willow and Maple will be one bubble, with their own staff, they will have sole, unlimited access to the outdoor space outside their classroom and will have access to specific changing/personal hygiene rooms.

Elm will be a bubble, with their staff and only the toilets connected to their class with sole, unlimited access to the yard beside their classroom.

Unfortunately these changes will have an impact on the curriculum that can be offered. We can now only use the Sensory Room two days in the week and only to limited classes to enable enough time between each use for deep cleaning. We had hoped to start using hydrotherapy but due to our limited space to change children we are at present unsure we can provide this. Learning that happens across school, in our main yard, library space and main hall as well as learning opportunities shared between classes and staff will need to stop for the foreseeable future.

As we are now going to be separate bubbles, we will need to ensure that there is a safe staffing level in each bubble, which will vary depending on the class group. We may therefore have to close a bubble due to staffing issues, such as mandatory training or illness, as we will no longer be able to share staff from elsewhere school. We do not use

supply for a number of reasons but mainly because our pupils find having new staff difficult.

Staff will not use the staff room and will not have face-face contact with children or staff outside of their bubble. Their breaks and lunches will take place in their class bubbles and staff will have access to limited toilets specific to their bubble.

We would request that when you drop off and pick up your child you wear a mask, we will be doing the same. Only your child's class bubble staff will be able to take your child from you. Please do not come to school with any other person, this will hopefully keep the numbers of people waiting at the front entrance to a minimum.

Those children who travel on county transport, will also be in a bubble with those individuals on the same transport, including the driver and support staff. This is the practice across Northumberland for all county transport. In the event that a child or adult on their transport tests positive, the whole transport bubble will have to isolate for 14 days. This may result in your child's school bubble still being open but their transport bubble isolating.

If there is a positive test of a child or staff member within a bubble we will, in accordance to the DFE guidance, close that bubble for 10 school days, 14 days of isolation.

We are aware that many of these changes may impact on children's behaviour, we will do all we can to support this whilst ensuring that our children still have a lovely learning experience in school. Alongside this we need to be incredibly mindful of the mental-health of our staff working within these restrictions whilst always trying to give our children the very best learning opportunities, individualised support and social chances as is possible.