

Friday 29th January 2021 (3 pages)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all children and parents who have worked so hard again this week whether in school or at home. With Google Meet now up and running, it will be easier for children to share their successes and achievements with their teachers and class mates. Thank you so much to the staff for working so hard to ensure that all children and parents have access to Google classroom.

If your child is learning at home, please let their class teacher know of any special efforts that they have made and a Home Learning award postcard can be popped in the post.

All children in Years 1 to 4 should either have a Team point grid in their packs or on an email from me. If you keep a record of the number of team points your child receives and we will reward them with a small prize when school opens fully.

GOVERNMENT UPDATE (www.gov.uk)

Prime Minister's statement on the national lockdown position

This week, the Prime Minister has announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

If the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later, that is by 8 March. It is for this reason that we hope it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools from Monday 8 March.

Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education.

Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other pupils will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

February half-term

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with at least 80% of the funding earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period. Local authorities have local ties and knowledge, making them best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.

TESTING FOR STAFF IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to ensure school is as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools. I am therefore strongly encouraging all staff to take the tests. As with all test outcomes it may mean we need to respond and isolate individuals. We will communicate this as soon as we can.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM/MEET

Mrs Blythe and Class 2 were delighted to see each other on Google Meet for the first time yesterday. The children in Class 3 have also had a couple of class catch ups this week and also some 1:1 meets with Mrs Long today. Mrs Wilkinson is also meeting with the children in Class 1 as a group and as individuals. The purpose of the 1:1 meets are to discuss progress and learning with individual children and their parents. Children are encouraged to show the teacher their work in books and talk about what they have enjoyed and what they have found difficult. This is how marking and feedback happens in school so we are trying to ensure that all children who are learning from home also have that opportunity to share their work and receive feedback.

VANDALISM

We were very upset to discover that our Wendy house in the yard has been vandalised. Someone has kicked the window out and damaged the door to use the house after school hours. A large amount of rubbish was left inside and further damage to the inside of the windows. We have put a polite notice up inside the house to ask whoever has caused the damage, to refrain. If we find any more evidence of people entering the premises after hours, we will have to inform the police and perhaps think about investing in some CCTV cameras.

DEVICES FOR REMOTE LEARNING

If at any point, your child/ren do not have access to a device such as a laptop, ipad or tablet, please let me know. Mobile phone screens are not suitable for children to use. We will do our best to provide you with a device if you need one.

EXTRA JUMPER

Following a mandatory check on our wall mounted fan heaters, we have been advised to ensure that at least one window remains open at all times in the classrooms and hall. Your child may bring an extra jumper to wear in class if they wish.

PE KITS

Please ensure children have returned their PE kits in school for Monday 1st February 2021 if they are attending school on that day.

UNIFORM

Please ensure that ALL items of clothing and uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

We now have Humshaugh First School red hoodies available on www.schooltrends.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 th February:	Last day of term
12 th February:	Teacher day
22 nd February:	Spring 2 nd term starts

COVID GUIDELINES

Please ensure you are following the government guidelines to help protect your children, families and our staff and their families. We know that there have been several positive cases in the village recently, so it is vital that everyone is doing their part to reduce transmission.

Please try to keep your contact to a minimum and please be mindful of the risk that our teachers and support staff are taking to keep school open.


















CORONAVIRUS TIER 4

STAY AT HOME

gov.uk/coronavirus

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms so will be spreading the virus without realising. We must all take action to protect each other and our hospital capacity.

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY 	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS 	RETAIL 	WORK AND BUSINESS 
No household mixing, aside from support bubbles and two people meeting in public outdoor spaces.	Hospitality closed, aside from sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.	Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only open for click-and-collect and delivery.	Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.
EDUCATION 	INDOOR LEISURE 	ACCOMMODATION 	PERSONAL CARE 
Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open during term time. Registered childcare, other supervised activities for childcare purposes, and childcare bubbles permitted	Closed.	Closed (with limited exceptions)	Closed.
OVERNIGHT STAYS 	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS 	ENTERTAINMENT 	PLACES OF WORSHIP 
You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply.	Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to six. Weddings of up to six can continue in exceptional circumstances.	Indoor entertainment closed. Some outdoor attractions may remain open.	Open for private prayer and communal worship, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
TRAVELLING 	EXERCISE 	RESIDENTIAL CARE 	CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE
You must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. If you must travel, you should stay local, and reduce the number of journeys you make. You must not leave a Tier 4 area or stay overnight away from home. Residents in Tiers 1 - 3 should not enter Tier 4 areas. Do not travel abroad if you live in a Tier 4 area unless an exemption applies.	You can leave your home to exercise by yourself, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household. Outdoor sport allowed but gatherings limit applies except for youth and disabled sport.	You can visit relatives in care homes with COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits.	The Clinically Extremely Vulnerable are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend health appointments.