

# NORTH HEATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ERICA WAY HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12 5XL

Friday 8 January 2021

Newsletter 13

Dear Parent/s / Carer/s

### Being Kind

The challenges we currently face at such short notice as a school and community cannot be underestimated and we thank all of you for your understanding that it may take some time for us to fully organise and share all information – many things are still being agreed by the local authority and the DfE; the NAHT are being particularly active in trying to drive the decision making process at a national level. We apologise in advance if this causes any frustration, but rest assured, we probably feel the same!

### Key Workers

Headteachers in our locality are very concerned at the numbers of children attending our schools in the current conditions – North Heath hosted around 39% of the usual intake this week. It seems far too high considering the state of the pandemic and the risks involved.

Children of critical workers that work on the front line of covid response for the NHS, in care home and education staff may soon need to be prioritised.

In advance of firm guidance, we are asking all key worker families to carefully consider over the weekend if you really do require on site provision. Can you help us cut as many lines of transmission as possible? Please let your year group know by Monday 11 January if you have the capacity to switch to home learning. In doing so, you could help make it a lot safer for yourselves and others.

Lower numbers in school would also allow us to open our remote offer far more effectively, as teachers may not be able to pay adequate attention to that whilst the demand of face to face education is so high. Currently, every teacher is needed in class.

Following advice from West Sussex, everyone who works in these groups now needs to email evidence of their employment to the year group emails by Monday 11 January – an identification badge, pay slip or similar, please. Where there are 2 key workers in a household, both need to provide evidence. Where key workers are separated from the other parent, we would like to know who has parental responsibility during the week, too.

If necessary, in the interests of the local and national cause, we will then use this information and set criteria to decide who will learn on site. The offer is likely to reduce quite substantially should this be necessary. Governors will discuss how our individual risk assessment could impact on attendance entitlement on Monday 11 January.

Having said all that, government advice on restricting attendance has only just come out today!

### Staffing

In opening remote learning and on site learning, staffing has to change to try and facilitate both. Whilst this may take some time to settle, and change frequently, the staffing for next week is below:

Class	Teachers
YR Apple	Mrs Smith, Mrs Rowlands

YR Plum	Mrs Sherwood, Mrs Rowlands
Y1 Chestnut	Mrs Parker, Mrs Jalal, Mrs Sampson
Y1 Oak	Miss Ogle, Mr Hill
Y2 Elder	Miss Head, Miss Hay
Y2 Silver Birch	Mrs Hope, Mrs Saunders, Miss Williams
Y3 Hazel	Ms Davies, Mrs Bolton
Y3 Willow	Miss Stewart – Croker, Mrs Bolton
Y4 Larch	Miss Taylor, Mrs Rhodes
Y4 Lime	Miss Chippett, Mrs Rhodes
Y5 Hawthorn	Mr Cousins, Miss Sowton
Y5 Rowan	Miss Bouchiba, Miss Sowton
Y6 Mulberry	Mrs Lowe, Mrs Cheshire
Y6 Whitebeam	Miss Vincent, Mrs Boniface, Mrs Wythers

Unless your circumstances are exceptional, West Sussex expect all pupils attending school to be here full time. Absences may to be marked as unauthorised unless there is a good reason.

Year group bubbles/classes may need to close to every child if we have notice of a positive case of covid-19 or if a teacher is off ill.

## **Year 5**

If your child is in year 5, learning from home, and does not have access to a computer, a laptop, an iPad or similar, please let your teacher know by email by Monday 11 January.

## **Home Learning**

Staff will use their best endeavours to prepare the regulatory 3 hours of activities for each year group. Reading remains a priority and physical activity will be included. Books for recording will be available from school every Friday from 1.30 – 2.00 PM. There is an expectation that all children not in school will fully engage in home learning.

Parents are welcome to contact teachers via email a maximum of 3 times a week, with the understanding that they may not be in a position to respond daily. Any more than that would simply make it unmanageable for staff who are teaching children in school. Please always include your child's class and name in the subject box.

[reception@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:reception@northheathprimary.co.uk)

[year1@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:year1@northheathprimary.co.uk)

[year2@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:year2@northheathprimary.co.uk)

[year3@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:year3@northheathprimary.co.uk)

[year4@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:year4@northheathprimary.co.uk)

[year5@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:year5@northheathprimary.co.uk)

[year6@northheathprimary.co.uk](mailto:year6@northheathprimary.co.uk)

### **Reception Home Learning Offer**

Teachers will prepare 2 week blocks of work. These will contain activity ideas from across the 'Early Years' curriculum. Pupils can choose which pieces of work or activities they wish to send to their teacher each week via the year group email.

### **Infant Home Learning Offer**

Teachers will prepare 2 week blocks of work which will be sent out via ParentMail. Specific pieces of work (to be submitted via year group emails) will be identified by the teachers and responded to each week.

### **Junior Home Learning Offer**

Teachers will open registers from 8.45 – 9.00 AM on Google Classroom for all children to say good morning and log in for their day's work. Through Google Classroom, teachers will identify which piece of work will be submitted, for response from the teacher, each week. If the face to face offer reduces, teachers may eventually be available to respond live at regular times on Google Classroom. The mathematics materials will usually allow for independent learning, with the facility for pupils to correct their own mistakes, so there is no need to submit these. Teachers will continually upload activities onto Google Classroom so that each week's learning is available.

Google Classroom is relatively new to many of our staff, so we thank you for the kind appreciation many of you have already shown.

### **Admin Support**

Our admin support in the office will reduce soon as we introduce a rota system to limit the amount of staff on site. This will impact on our capacity to respond to queries, so please consider in advance if you really do need to contact them.

### **Fruit and Milk**

During the lockdown there will be no deliveries of fruit or milk for the infants. Please provide your child with a piece of fruit for snack time.

### **Lunches**

Junior children need to continue to bring a packed lunch. All infants, and junior pupils entitled to a free school meal, will be provided with a hot meal.

Pupils learning from home, who are entitled to a free school meal, will be provided with food parcels, which will be delivered to school each week. Parents/carers will need to pick these up from school. At the moment we do not know when this will happen, but we hope that it will start next week!

West Sussex are planning to fund food vouchers over half term, though we don't have any further details as yet.

The Community Hub, which was set up in March 2020, gives practical support and information to anyone adversely affected by Covid – 19. Confidential contact is available through 03302227980 or [www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub).

A lot more information will no doubt come your way soon, so once again we thank you for your patience, as we continue to try our best to manage things from here in.

Kind regards

M Gildea  
Headteacher