



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371402 Fax: 0191 2371830

Email: admin@whytrig.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.svf.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Jonathan Souter

4 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you have all had a great Christmas and wish you all the best for 2021 and a better year than the last one.

As you will be aware from the letter Mr Barnes has sent out and from the media, there have been some further changes announced by the government over the holidays which will affect how we operate as a school over the next few weeks. I am writing to you in an attempt to clarify as much as I can at this stage. The most important aspects are as follows:

Current return to school dates

Year 5 - Tuesday 5th January. **Year 5 pupils should arrive at school at 8:35am** and line up (socially distant) in their form class to be collected by their form teacher at 8:40am. Staff will be there to supervise their entrance into school.

Year 6 - Tuesday 5th January. **Year 6 pupils should arrive at 8:45am** and line up (socially distant) in their form class to be collected by their form teacher at 8:50am. Staff will be there to supervise their entrance into school.

Year 7 - Monday 18th January

Year 8 - Monday 18th January

Setting of online work for Key Stage 3 pupils

Work will be set by teaching staff on Google Classroom from Tuesday 5th January for children in Years 7 and 8 to complete. It is essential that children are encouraged to access their online learning and do as much as possible so that they keep up to date with the curriculum, especially as they have missed so much schooling already in the last 9 months. If there are any issues regarding this, please contact the school to see if there is any technical support we can offer. In addition, we have been given the information that families on a low income can benefit from a free increase to mobile data if they are a customer of the following networks:

- EE
- Three
- Sky Mobile
- SMARTY
- Tesco Mobile
- Virgin Mobile.

If this applies to your family, please let the school know so that we can assist you in arranging this. Normal lessons will commence when your child returns to school, whenever that may be as above.

Provision for “Vulnerable and Key Worker Children”

We will have a provision in place from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 15th January for children in Years 7 and 8 who have parents/carers who are key workers and some others who are eligible to attend. A Google Form was sent out before the Christmas break for parents who require their child to access this provision. If you have already completed this form, then we are expecting your child to attend tomorrow. If you have not completed this form you **must not** send your child to school, without contacting the school office first. The key aspects of this provision are:

- Operating hours will be the current school hours for your child's year group. **Year 7 pupils should arrive at school at 8:35am** and line up (socially distant) in their year group to be collected by their teacher at 8:40am. **Year 8 pupils should arrive at school at 8:45am** and line up (socially distant) in their year group to be collected by their teacher at 8:50am.
- At the start of the day, pupils should make their way to the current entrance point into school for their year group to be met by school staff. They will be collected and taken to work in the following rooms: Year 7 – Room 11, Year 8 – Room 7.
- The normal school timetable will be followed, with staff supporting pupils in a classroom equipped with ICT devices. Pupils will complete online work set by their usual teachers.
- Full school uniform must be worn.
- A mask must be worn (unless medically exempt)
- All year group bubble zones and procedures are still fully intact.

School Meals

We are asking that all children on site bring a packed lunch tomorrow and on Wednesday. Pupils who receive free school meals will have a packed lunch provided. We will notify parents of any changes to these arrangements as and when they happen.

Covid Testing Regime

As Mr Barnes said in his letter, we are currently working on our testing regime, which is likely to start on Monday 11th January. Over the next few days, parents of children in Years 7 and 8 will receive a Google consent form which we require you to complete for your child to be able to conduct the tests in school. If anyone is willing and able to assist us as a volunteer, then please contact Mrs Small.

At the moment, I think you will appreciate that changes are happening nationally on a daily, sometimes hourly basis so it may be necessary to contact you again and make alterations to the plans we have in place. For now, if you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Souter
Head of School