



WEST HESLERTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"Children are at the centre of all we do"

January 15th 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope you are doing well. School is open and acting upon information provided to us via phone, email or Dojo. Guidance for schools continues to change. Please read the letter below carefully as many national and school changes have been made since I last wrote.

Support for families

West Heslerton staff pride themselves on the support and care offered to all families. Please reach out to us to help should you need any support during these uncertain times. We have been able to point parents towards a range of support in the community to assist in unforeseen issues. We want to look after you all so that you can look after all children and families in our locality.

Information for all families

- Please notify us of any Covid cases in pupils, people in your household or any self-isolation pupils are required to do. We would wish to support you. We will complete school registers for all children (whether learning at home or at school) based upon this information. We must return this covid information daily to the DfE. We have a dedicated email for this: **covid@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk**
- There will be no parents evenings held this term. Instead, please keep us updated through your child's teacher on Dojo. Your child's teacher will be able to discuss your child's learning with you at regular intervals.

School is open for pupils who are vulnerable and for critical worker children when they cannot stay at home safely. Work is being set for pupils in school and at home. This follows our long term plan to ensure a full and broad curriculum. The Remote Education Policy on our website <https://www.heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk/our-school/policies> explains how we teach both sets of children.

It explains that:

Children in Reception should complete a minimum 2 hours daily learning.

Children in Years 1 and 2 should complete a minimum 3 hours daily learning.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 should complete a minimum 4 hours daily learning.

- **All parents need to check Dojo daily please for messages from staff regarding school changes that may affect your child.** Please turn notifications on to help.
- Year 2 and Year 6 national tests will not now take place. Teacher assessment will be made based upon work completed in school before Christmas and newer work on Dojo. Please ensure your child's work is shared with classteachers.

If you require this in a different format, please contact the office

- Vouchers provide every child eligible for means tested free school meals with supermarket vouchers. School will claim funding for this.
If your circumstances change during this lockdown, please get in touch. You may be eligible for help with lunches and childcare while school remains closed.

Positive Covid cases

Should you have **any Covid symptoms or Covid test results**, please share these with us using covid@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk so that we can alert Health England and all families as soon as possible to any contact that has taken place. Emails are checked every day, including weekends, to identify cases of children at school and home.

Attending school

If your child needs to attend school because a parent is a critical worker and at work, please contact school and we will book a space for your child. Critical workers are:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Children who are deemed vulnerable must also attend school for learning.

Information regarding children learning at school

- School is open for pupils who are vulnerable and for critical worker children where there is no-one available to look after them at home. **Children are safest at home.**
- School is looking after pupils who have self-isolated after having had Covid in their homes. There is risk here at school and whilst we are doing everything we can to reduce this, we need to insist that **children stay at home whenever possible.**
- Attendance at school will result in children and families following any local health protection team advice given. This includes track and trace; self isolation, bubble closure and possibly whole school closure. **If you do not need to send your child to school, please keep them at home.**
- If your child is not well, please do not send them to school.
- School has a legal duty to protect their employees and others, including children, from harm. **Attendance at school means that families should follow guidance at all times outside of school to restrict contact with others.**
- Children need a pack up (or book a school packed lunch), a fruit snack if wished, water bottle, warm clothing including a waterproof coat and their forest school kit in school each day they attend. They should **not** bring anything else to school.
- Based upon bookings made, **our after school club will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** until further notice. Should you need to use this, please book ahead by telephone. Staff will be furloughed during sessions that are not booked.
- No milk or fruit is currently provided in school. A choice of packed lunches can be provided for children, just book on the day. No cups are provided at lunchtimes, children use their own water bottles for drinks.

If you require this in a different format, please contact the office

- If your child brings their own pack up, please provide any cutlery needed.
- We are working hard to maintain very small consistent bubbles and limit contact. Your child is learning with the school staff that they usually work with wherever possible. We may need to change this and deploy staff more flexibly. We work hard to minimise staff movement between bubbles..
- If your child is due in school but is not attending as ill, please contact school by 9am. This will save us time and worry phoning you to ensure they are safe.
- Parents should wear face masks and keep their distance from others when dropping/collecting children. **Parents are asked to wait in cars where possible.**

Information for children learning at home

- Online learning for all children at home is published on Dojo in the class story section each Monday. Resources for children to use throughout the week will be regularly added. Pupils should log in to see their portfolios (not visible through parents log ins) and send their teachers their work in this section too. It is a national expectation that all children will complete the work set.
- Please contact us if your child is ill and unable to complete tasks. We will then not chase this expected work until your child is better. The same activities will be completed at school by those children whose parents are critical workers.
- If you are struggling with IT equipment and/or connection, please get in touch with school. The DfE will provide school with 2 machines for loan. We are still awaiting these. We do not have lots of loan equipment but we will do what we can.

Contacting School

Due to limited office staff hours, please contact teachers on Dojo for learning questions. The office can be contacted on 01944 728286 where an answerphone is available all of the time. This is checked regularly and will provide the fastest response. School can be emailed on admin@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk and these emails are usually checked daily. If you had a new phone for Christmas or a change in family circumstances, please would you ensure that we have your up to date contact details?

Further updates

We generally find out changes in regulations at the same time as you do. We will share updates with you all as soon as we can.

These regulations are not always easy to understand. Please get in touch if you would wish to discuss any of these and how these may affect your family.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Wells, Headteacher



“The school’s work to promote pupil’s personal development and welfare is outstanding”

OfSTED inspection, February 2019

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