



## WEST HESLERTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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“Children are at the centre of all we do”

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all still managing well at home. We are pleased you are able to keep safe. Guidance for schools continues to change. The following covers the recent changes.

### **Half Term Break**

The Half Term break is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. No home learning will be set for this week. School will close – staff, pupils and parents need to rest after a challenging half term. School will **reopen to critical worker children only on Mon 22nd February**.

### **Positive Covid cases**

Should you have **any Covid symptoms or Covid test results**, please share these with us (whether learning at home or at school) using [covid@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto: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 **and there is no other safe alternative childcare**, please contact school for a space for your child. Children who are deemed vulnerable should also attend school for learning.

**Children are safest at home.**

### **Keeping staff and children in school safe**

If your child is not well, please do not send them to school.

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**.

It has come to our attention that during the last few weeks some of the children in school have not followed the Lockdown rules on several occasions when not in school. A few are still visiting other houses and even staying overnight. This variant of the virus is highly transmissible – far more than the original virus - and we all have a part to play in keeping our community safe.

**For families who are attending school, we must insist that you adhere to the lockdown rules.** If you are in a childcare bubble, that bubble can only be with one other household. If it comes to our attention that your child is mixing with other families / children when not in school **the Governors will immediately consider your child's place in school** to keep everyone else safe.

**This will happen irrespective of your role as a key worker.**

I hope you can understand why we need to do this – please make sure your child follows the rules to help everyone stay healthy.

### **Covid testing in school for staff**

Staff have started voluntarily testing twice weekly to minimise the spread of the virus in school from asymptomatic people (of which it is thought 30% could be). This will keep your child safer but may result in more school bubbles having to close and pupils isolate from school. **Please have an alternative emergency childcare plan in place.** Please check Dojo daily for updates of bubbles closing and/or reopening. This will save you from wasted journeys to school. Turning on Dojo notifications may help you keep up to date.

### **After School Club**

Based upon bookings made so far, **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. Telephone bookings on the day may not be possible if this facility is not open. Staff will be furloughed during sessions that are not booked.

### **Support for families**

School is open and acting upon information provided to us via phone, email or Dojo. Please reach out to us to help should you need any support during these uncertain times.

If your circumstances change, please get in touch. You may be eligible for help while school remains closed. We are here to help all families.

Health support for families is provided online and NYCC have asked us to share this link <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/news/advice-for-parents-during-lockdown-3/>

### **Track and Trace/self isolation**

Attendance at school requires 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.**

### **Feedback to school**

Thank you for the feedback to school as requested in the last letter here

<https://www.heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>

I have shared the positive feedback with staff which has really kept us going. I have responded to those where we can help out. Please send any comments to me by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. I will publish anonymised feedback in our next letter home.

### **Information for children learning at home**

Online learning for all children is published on Dojo in the class story section each Monday. The same activities will be completed at school by those children whose parents are critical workers. 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.

If you are struggling with IT equipment and/or connection, please get in touch with school. We do not have lots of loan equipment but we will do what we can.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. For details, please see the separate letter here <https://www.heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>

### **Safer Internet Day**

Safer Internet Day is a focus for all children's safety annually. This year it will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. We will send through information and learning activities nearer the time on Class Dojo for you and your child to take part in. This year it is more relevant than ever. Let's work hard to keep all children safe online wherever they may access the internet.

### **Additional documents added to the school website**

We have updated the Remote Learning Policy which is now on the school website. This reminds parents of the learning expectations:

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.

### **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](mailto:admin@heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk) and these emails are usually checked daily.

### **Critical Workers**

Thank you to the key workers who continue to do a great job which allows us to do ours! We are grateful to all those who are taking risks with their own health on behalf of our families and community.

### **Charity**

Our school's nominated charity for 2021 is Scarborough and Ryedale Mountain Rescue. We will be hosting whole school fundraising events on their behalf when we are able to. In the meantime, a small change box is in our office. Should you wish to donate change from dinner money etc to this, please let us know. Perhaps you and your family could do a lockdown challenge to highlight the important work they do or fundraise on their behalf?

### **Further updates**

Please get in touch if you would wish to discuss any of these updates and how these may affect your family.

Take care and stay safe.

Rachel Wells,  
Headteacher



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

OfSTED inspection, February 2019