



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP
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Thursday 29th April 2021.

COVID 19 Restrictions information from now until further notice.

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians,

While the country appears to be heading on a roadmap out of restrictions, I would like to make clear the *slight* changes we are able to put in place at school.

I appreciate they may not seem as ambitious as the current Government Guidelines for families and businesses. During my many meetings with leaders of Northumberland County Council and educational organisations nationally, it has been made clear that we must continue to strictly adhere to our current COVID 19 risk assessment. The measures that have been in place over the past 13 months have meant that cases of COVID 19 in school, our impact on the wider community and vulnerable family members has been minimal.

I have added a list below of what is changing and what is staying the same. If you are unsure of anything or I haven't listed something, please let me know. If you are going to make the most of family members or other parents being part of your childcare bubble, please ensure they are also aware of school guidelines.

Please note school transport follow their own guidelines and are not part of this list.

Staying in place:

COVID 19 Risk Assessment Version 6.1 (on school website)

Enhanced hand hygiene and frequent enhanced cleaning procedures

Working and playing in class bubbles only

Parent/ Legal Guardian not permitted beyond the main school gate

Items that children have forgotten to bring to school are to be placed in the quarantine box outside the school gate, and the school office contacted by phone or Admin email so that safe pick up of the items can be arranged.

Staggered times for the end and start of the day

Pick up and drop off points to remain the same

Children are not to be picked up for 'playdates' and can only be picked up by another parent if they are picking up for childcare purposes as per <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey



To return home after medical or dentist appointments made during the day (these should be avoided and healthcare places are now offering out of school appointment times)

Adults to wear face coverings or masks outside school grounds unless medically exempt

Changes:

Children can be picked up by nonregistered childminders following the childcare guidelines for children under 14 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

If your child needs to leave school for an emergency appointment during the afternoon, please contact the school office and your class teacher and we will endeavour to accommodate staffing to release your child without crossing bubbles to the main school gate at 11.55p.m.

If your child attends a sporting session prior to school, you will of course be aware that they are likely to mix with children from one or more schools so for the safety of everyone please follow their Health and Safety procedures rigorously.

I would also like to remind parents that if your child has any symptoms a PCR Test is recommended, and not to rely solely on lateral flow tests, as there is a time lag to show infections so therefore they may not be accurate for a current infection.

Looking forwards to the future:

If cases of COVID 19 continue to drop and government guidance for schools changes we would hope that during the Summer Term we will:

Have Sports Day on separate afternoons in class bubbles on a 'ticketed/ booking basis' so that we can ensure social distancing etc

Provide our Year 6 Leavers with the best memories to take with them as safely as possible

From September we hope to:

Return to sporting events and fixtures

Return to providing swimming provision for allocated year groups across the year

Return to high quality coaching provision

Resume after school clubs

Organise meaningful trips for our children to enhance their education

Continue to ensure we have safe, happy, healthy and well-educated pupils and that our school is the best it possibly can be.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Stay safe and take care.

Best wishes, Belinda Athey, Headteacher