

# Headteacher's Blog

**Friday 11th September 2020**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Headteacher's Blog of the term. It has been fantastic to see how quickly the children have settled back into school and are keen to learn. Thank you to everyone who is helping us to enable the pick up and drop off arrangements run smoothly and safely. If you have any questions or queries for your class teacher please give the school office a ring or email during office hours: Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk or send a message on Tapestry and your child's class teacher will get back to you as soon as they can. I am on duty most days at the beginning and end of the day Monday - Thursday and am happy to answer questions or listen to suggestions about how we can improve things at school in any way.

A reminder that Government guidelines change on Monday. School follows such guidelines and I follow the information given by Public Health England so that we continue to ensure school remains a happy and safe place to be. Please continue to help us to do this by following guidance and also any procedures that we may put in place at school.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Up to date details.

It is normally during this time of year that Mrs Kennedy sends out a raft of forms including medical forms and also data collection sheets. As we are not encouraging the handling of paper we have decided to do things a little differently. Please contact Mrs Kennedy directly on the Admin email listed above if you have a change in contact details. Please ensure that you have more than one up to date contact detail in case we need to contact you in the case of an emergency and be mindful of the time you may spend away from a landline and out of a mobile phone signal.

Please inform the office by email immediately if there is a change in medical details.

Home Learning and Back to School.

Thank you for supporting us and helping your children continue to learn during the Summer Term. Next week the children will under go a series of assessments to gauge how much information and skills prior to lockdown has been retained and what new learning has been achieved. It is perfectly normal for children not to have made as much progress as they would have done in school due to a number of reasons (not to mention amongst your many skills you are not expected to be a qualified teacher!).

Staff know what is best for your children and we are a very experienced team so please trust our judgements. If we have to re-visit areas of learning or consolidate skills with your child then this is something that will benefit your child greatly in the longer term. We will not hold children back unnecessarily and where we feel additional support is needed we will let you know what actions will be.

Contingency Planning.

I attended the Alnwick Partnership Headteacher's Meeting on Wednesday and all the schools attending are busy developing a plan of education if a child needs to be off school due to COVID 19 or indeed if school closes. We have taken on board feedback and are developing a section of the school website that will have links and up to date information.

I will be sending a letter, updating the webpage on the school site and working with staff to send out work packs to children over the next week (sooner to individuals if needed). For online work we will be continuing to use School 360 and for daily lessons we will use The National Academy. Please copy the link below and you will find that lessons are arranged in year groups and there are new tasks each day.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>

*Please contact me directly if your child does not have access to an online device by Friday 18th September.*

Communication.

You will notice that we are not sending planners or reading records between home and school. However, we have found this has cut down on a vital form of communication and also a record of daily reading at home (if your child is reading formal books).

We will continue to encourage Early Years parents and staff to use Tapestry and over the next week we will be introducing a new app based system for Years 1-6. Full details will be with you soon. Please remember not to contact staff on their personal email, Facebook page etc and any messages through our regular channels will be replied to during school working hours.