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Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

An email was sent out to families on Thursday (now in letter form on our website) informing you that government guidance had been released and that I would get back to you with a plan.

The guidance is a very detailed document and it has taken me a few readings to fully digest the content and how this will impact our school. One of our Governors has sent this synopsis of the guidance which has been written by another governor and outlines the guidance well.

I have copied this to share with you and is on the second page onwards of this letter.

Firstly, the school staff cannot wait to welcome children back! Being office based for the duration of the pandemic has certainly re-affirmed that I am a teacher first and foremost and am desperate to be back 'at the chalk face'.

Secondly, I appreciate some of you may have extremely clinically vulnerable adults in your household and the thought of your child being back in school mixing with others is already causing anxiety.

Please be reassured that we will continue to follow stringent guidelines and procedures which make our school site as COVID secure as possible. Continue to support us in doing this by following current government guidelines.

I appreciate that for children who have not been in school since March they may be anxious about returning too. After meeting with governors and staff we are already planning how we can support your child's return, including a few surprises (watch this space).

I would also like to hear your thoughts and feedback, so early this week I will be sending a letter out asking for your views regarding your child's return to school in September and what you would ideally like for us to have in place or what support systems we could offer.

Please do look out for this letter and so that I can collate the information quickly respond to me directly by email – [belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk)

Sorry! There may be a 'few' letters for you to read and respond to from now until the end of term. However, I am sure you will appreciate being kept informed as much as possible regarding our plans for September.

With Best Wishes,  
Belinda Athey- Headteacher.

**Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey**



Summary from Guidance 2/7/20

<https://www.gov.uk/.../acti.../guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

#### Preamble

- No plans to reimburse schools for any costs associated with re-opening fully.
- Minimise contacts that a pupil has during the school day.
- All elements of systems of control are essential, but the way schools implement them may be different.
- No 'one size fits all'.
- Still need to provide broad and balanced curriculum.

#### Section 1

- All pupils to return full time, no rotas.
- Risk assessments should include essential measures:
  - o People who are ill stay at home
  - o Hand and respiratory hygiene
  - o Enhanced cleaning
  - o Engagement with test and trace
  - o Consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is practicable e.g.
    - Grouping children together
    - Avoiding contact between groups
    - Classes with forward facing desks
    - Staff maintaining distance from other pupils and staff as much as possible.
- Update wider risk assessments – legal requirement.
- Systems of controls that schools MUST take (more details about all of this in full guidance):
  - o Prevention
    - Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell - anyone with COVID symptoms must not attend.
    - Clean hands thoroughly.
    - Catch it, bin it for tissues.
    - Enhanced cleaning.
    - Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing – must be considered in a way that suits particular circumstances.
  - Schools should assess their circumstances and if class-sized groups are not compatible with offering a full range of subjects or managing the practical logistics of the school, they can operate year group bubbles.
  - All teachers and staff can operate across different classes and year groups. Mixing into other groups is allowed for wraparound care.
  - Avoid large gatherings e.g. assemblies with more than one group.
  - Consider staggered break and lunchtimes.
  - Use of staff rooms as a shared space should be minimised.
  - Schools should consider staggered start times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school.
  - Supply teachers and peripatetic teachers can move between schools.
  - Dual registered children – schools should work through system of controls collaboratively.
  - Classroom resources can be shared but children should have own pens/pencils.
  - Resources shared between bubbles (PE resources) should be cleaned meticulously or left for 72 hours.
- Wear PPE when necessary – only in specific circumstances.
- o Response to infection
  - Engage with test and trace.

- Manage confirmed cases of COVID amongst school community.
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

## Section 2

- Social distancing has reduced available transport capacity.
- Usual school rules on attendance will be mandatory from September and usual rules apply.
- If a child is unable to access school because they are following medical/PHE advice, we expect schools to be able to offer them access to remote education.
- Further guidance expected regarding the recording of attendance data.
- Most staff will be expected to attend school – see more detail in guidance regarding those who are clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable.
- TAs can be used to lead groups or cover lessons, under the direction of a qualified teacher.
- Supply staff, peripatetic teachers, sports coaches, club leaders can move between schools but schools will want to consider number of visitors to the school where possible.
- Can still support ITT trainees.
- 14 day quarantine rule still applies to any staff taking foreign holiday, but they should be available to work from 1st September. School leaders may need to consider if that staff member can work from home if this falls in term time.
- Volunteers can be used.
- School kitchens to open.
- Encourage good ventilation within the school.
- Guidance is still against overnight visits at present.
- Schools can resume other educational trips.
- Uniforms do not need to be cleaned more than normal.
- Breakfast/after school clubs – if it is not possible to maintain the bubbles being used during the day, then clubs should use small, consistent groups.
- No physical contact sport.

## Section 3

- Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects.
- Aim to return to normal curriculum by summer 2021.
- Plan on basis of educational needs of all pupils.
- Develop remote education to be part of general school curriculum – in case of local lockdown.
- Reception – assess and address gaps in language, early reading and maths.
- KS1/KS2 – prioritise identifying gaps and re-establish good progress in reading, phonics, writing and maths but ensure curriculum remains broad.
- Outdoor sports to be prioritised where possible.
- One-off grant to be paid to all state-funded schools in 2020-21 academic year to support catch up. National Tutoring programme will run alongside this.
- Schools should consider provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities to support rebuilding of friendships, address issues linked to COVID and support pupils' mental wellbeing.
- Schools should provide more pastoral support where issues are identified with individual pupils.
- Review and update Behaviour policy to include current guidelines.
- Disciplinary powers that a school has remains in place.

## Section 4

- Ofsted inspections remain suspended for Autumn Term. However inspectors will visit a sample of schools to discuss how they are managing their return.
- Ofsted are likely to resume from January 2021.
- Statutory primary assessments will take place in Summer 2021 – phonics, KS1 TA, Y4 multiplication, KS2, EFYS profile.
- Reception baseline postponed until September 2021.
- GCSEs and A Levels will take place in 2021.
- STA reviewing whether to administer phonics check in Y2 (for those missed in 2020).
- Performance tables suspended for 2019-20.

## Section 5

- A spike in local infection rates may result in local lockdown.

- Schools will need a contingency plan for this.
- Remote learning (more detail in document):
  - o Schools to continue to improve this.
  - o Will need to use to support pupils self-isolating, shielding or in case of local lockdown.
  - o Provide printed resources for those with no access.
  - o Teach a well-planned curriculum with clear indication of work to be done each day.





