

# Newsham Primary School Blyth

Warwick Street, Blyth, Northumberland. NE24 4NX

Tel: 01670 353124 Email: [admin@newshamprimary.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newshamprimary.northumberland.sch.uk)



Headteacher: Mrs. Anne-Marie Armstrong

21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

## Updated Arrangements for Autumn 2 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your support and encouragement throughout this half term. It is fair to say that the impact of the current global pandemic is being felt in so many aspects of our daily lives and so it is understandable that things have had to be very different throughout school. I absolutely understand the uncertainty and anxiety that many people have experienced as a result of Coronavirus and the world must seem even more strange and unfamiliar for our children. That said, the staff in school have tried their utmost to ensure the children feel safe, loved and secure. This must have been successful because attendance figures have been largely positive, pupils are engaging in classroom learning and new school routines have become embedded.

I have noticed in this final week of half term that some children are ready for a break. It has been tough for children to have their opportunities to socialise, restricted to their class. KS2 children have had to have their lunch in their classrooms and on rainy days, this has meant that children have been restricted to their desks for the day. I have been amazed that behaviour has remained as positive as it has. I have recently however, seen an increase in low level incidents where children have fallen out with each other so we are really trying to focus on kindness, positivity and happiness as a whole school. If your child tells you that Mrs. Armstrong has been playing Ken Dodd's song "Happiness" or Morecombe and Wise's "Bring me Sunshine" during our online whole school assemblies, they are absolutely right!

I hope to have time to post another video on our school Facebook page before school closes for half term but in the meantime, I wanted to share my updated plans for entry and exit onto site for next half term with families as soon as possible. I am making these changes as the seasonal weather is creating problems accessing the field and other grassed areas.

In an effort to keep this letter to a reasonable length, I will detail the main information in bullet points below;

School is also closed to pupils on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** for our teacher training day.

- School reopens to pupils on **Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**.
- **School lunches MUST be ordered through "School Grid" (our online booking system).**
- PE will continue to take place outside wherever possible and we would like each child to continue to bring a pair of trainers in a named bag that can be used on a daily basis for our outdoor work. Children will need to remember to bring them home each weekend.
- **Only one parent or carer should bring their child / children to school** where possible.
- **Drop off and collection times need to be prompt and punctual.** We do not have time to deal with late arrivals as children from other year groups will be arriving and / or gates will need to be locked therefore please ensure prompt arrival at your selected time.
- **No parents or carers are permitted to come onto the school playground (other than via the new dedicated walk way) or into the school building without a prior appointment.**
- **Parents and carers must not linger at the school gates** once their child has been handed over to school staff. We have marked out the "no waiting zones" on the pavement.

- **NEW Staggered start and collection times/entry exit arrangements:**

Year Group	Entry Points	Start Time	Exit Point	Finish Time
Nursery	There is no change to the previous arrangements for nursery families.			
Reception	<b>Pedestrian Gate</b> at Bungalow entrance – walk up the path, children go through the double green gate and line up on the yard – parents leave walking down the main drive.	9.00 am	<b>Main Drive</b> - Parents to walk up the main drive, collect children from yard and walk back down the pedestrian path.	3.30 pm
Y1	<b>Field Gate</b> – walk along the new walkway (no stopping) drop children at their class line - parent continues walking and exits via the ramp gate.	8.35 am	Exit points remain the same as they currently are	3.05 pm
Y2	<b>Field Gate</b> – walk along the new walkway (no stopping) drop children at their class line - parent continues walking and exits via the ramp gate.	8.40 am		3.10 pm
Y3	<b>Field Gate</b> – pupils only walk along the new walkway to their class line.	8.45 am		3.15 pm
Y4	<b>Field Gate</b> – pupils only walk along the new walkway to their class line.	8.50 am		3.20 pm
Y5	<b>Ramp Gate</b> – opened at 8.50am come into yard and line up.	8.55 am		3.25 pm
Y6	<b>Ramp Gate</b> – opened at 8.55am come into yard and line up.	9.00 am		3.30 pm

We will use telephone, email and other virtual communication systems to continue to keep in contact with you and would encourage you to send an email to our school admin address or phone our school office if you need any help or support during these unfamiliar times.

Whilst this letter outlines changes for the beginning of next half term, I'm unfortunately unable to let you know how things will develop in the weeks and months that lie ahead. I know you appreciate the uncertainty that is affecting the whole country and the further potential changes that could affect our region. As a school, we have already been significantly affected by the pandemic in terms of the number of pupils and staff that have been required to isolate this half term. Staffing levels have been the lowest I have experienced in the last sixteen years as Headteacher here at Newsham. The absences have been completely unavoidable and I have had to try and manage that situation for the staff affected, their colleagues covering their roles but most importantly for the children themselves. We have continued to smile and been really positive during very challenging times but government restrictions on schools means that we can't even sing! This particular restriction means that Christmas performances look highly unlikely and we'll need to find other ways to ensure children enjoy this special time of year.

I hope this letter is not negative or pessimistic. We have so much to be grateful for and Newsham remains the very special school community that we have created over time.

I really do appreciate your constant support and faith in my leadership as Headteacher and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy half term break from school.

Take care and stay safe.

*A-M Armstrong*

Mrs. A-M Armstrong  
Headteacher