

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may have seen, the Prime Minister has yesterday evening announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Northlew C of E Primary School, are to be closed from today until at least the end of half term in February 2021, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Nurseries are able to remain open.

From today

If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open. **However, due to the limited number of classroom spaces available, and 2m social distancing measures to keep children apart as much as possible, the total number of children that Northlew C of E Primary can accommodate at any one time will be limited to 5 children in class 1 and 9 children in class 2 (currently we are full to capacity). As the number is at capacity, provision will be organised in one of our Federation schools with spaces available.**

Please follow this link to access the most up-to-date Government guidance regarding vulnerable children and families eligible as critical workers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Key summary of provision

- Children cannot attend if they or anyone in their household are displaying symptoms.
- There will be limited contact between children and one or two adults.
- We will be adapting the classroom environment to facilitate social distancing and cleaning protocol
- We will promote good hygiene such as hand washing, sanitising and use of tissues etc.
- We will carry out regular and thorough cleaning of all occupied areas and equipment.
- We will immediately isolate anyone displaying symptoms and send them home.

For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term. High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure they continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it. Remote learning will continue to be provided via Class Dojo.

We will continue to stay in touch with you on this matter, and about your child's education. However, if you have any questions, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements, please email admin@northlew.devon.sch.uk

In-school provision:

Your child will be in a small group of children with an adult. Your child's group may be led by a teacher or a teaching assistant. We will endeavour to keep the same members of staff with the same group, but it may have to be a member of staff that your child has not worked with before.

- If your child's school has exceeded the safe capacity following 2m social distancing, they will be offered a place at one of our Federation schools with available spaces
- Your child's group will be allocated a specific room within the school building. It will not necessarily be one that they are familiar with.
- Your child's group will not mix with other groups at all.
- As far as possible, your child will remain in their allocated room for the entire day, apart from access to outside breaks and outside learning, where your child's group will be segregated from the other groups.

As previously stated above, the school can safely accommodate only a small number of children following social distancing guidance. There are two 'bubbles' in operation, which means that children in one bubble will be segregated from the other one. They will have staggered break and lunchtimes to facilitate this.

The school is cleaned twice daily – after school and during staggered lunch time. If the weather is fine, the children will eat their lunch outside; however, if it is raining the children will eat in the classroom then go out so that the cleaner can clean the classroom. Therefore, all children should bring a packed lunch and a waterproof coat to school with them daily.

There will be frequent hand washing as well as strict social distancing – even between siblings from the same household. In addition, there have been a few additions to the behavior policy in order to keep everyone safe:

Behaviour and Safety

All in school must follow any altered routines for arrival or departure following school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising.

All in school should follow instructions on who children can socialise with at school moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing) expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues, and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching the mouth, nose, and eyes with hands.

All in school should tell a member of staff as soon as possible if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.

All in school to follow rules about not sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles

All in school should follow behaviour expectations and rules about breaks or play times, including social distancing in and out of the classroom as well as personal hygiene.

There should be clear rules for children at home about conduct in relation to engage with remote learning.

The school's rewards and sanction system will be adapted to focus on any additional rules.

Possible additional reasonable adjustments will be identified and included for children with more challenging behaviour

What to wear and bring

Please ensure that your child has the following in school each day:

- A packed lunch
- A drinks bottle

We are asking children to wear full 'school uniform. Guidance on infection control suggests clothes should be washed daily to kill any virus they may have come into contact with. Also, the windows and doors will be open and fresh air flushed frequently through the classrooms, so please ensure that the children have suitably warm clothing.

Teachers and group leaders

Each group will have an adult assigned to them. This may not be their normal class teacher, as staff are also supporting children who are learning at home. It is possible that a group will be supervised by a teaching assistant. In this scenario, the class teacher is still responsible for the planning and assessment of the children's learning. This is also taking into consideration the health, wellbeing and childcare issues each member of staff faces. Those staff who are working from home will continue to provide support for home learning whilst also supporting those colleagues working in school with planning and feedback. Staff will routinely wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

Breaktimes and lunchtimes

Each group will have a dedicated breaktime. This will not be with any other groups. Breaktimes will be supervised by a teaching assistant to allow the teacher to have a comfort break. Children will be asked to choose games that maintains a minimum 2m of social distancing between each other. Each group will have a set of equipment which is cleaned at the end of the playtime. The climbing frame and outdoor structures will not be used as this cannot be easily cleaned between groups.

Lunch will be eaten outside (weather permitting) or in classrooms with lunch break following the same format as morning breaktime.

Illness and first aid

If a child becomes ill (non-virus symptoms) normal procedures will apply. The staff will make a judgement about their fitness to be in school and contact parents as needed. When caring for someone who is ill or administering first aid, staff may wear PPE such as a face mask, gloves and an apron.

If a child, or adult, displays virus symptoms (as described by current guidance) they will be isolated in a quarantine room. Parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child and will be encouraged to have them tested for Covid-19. Children who display symptoms should seek a test and isolate accordingly.

Cleaning and health and safety

We have considered all aspects of the health and safety of our children very closely. All staff are very aware of the procedures in place whilst parents and children will be informed as necessary. All classrooms used by groups will be cleaned twice a day to minimise potential virus spread.

If your child is not able to attend school for any reason, please let the Administrator know as early as possible but before 09:10 at the latest.

We are aware that these changes to school have the potential to upset or unsettle some children. Our staff will of course, be as friendly and welcoming as they have always been. We will be focussing on the safety and emotional wellbeing of your children when they return to school before progressing with any learning.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Whittley
Executive Headteacher