



Hamsterley Primary Newsletter

19th November 2020
www.hamsterley.durham.sch.uk



Remote Learning Update

We are developing our remote learning offer and are beginning to use Seesaw as a platform for providing remote learning activities. We hope that this will be attractive and accessible to our children as well as providing a method for the children to submit the work that they have completed to the class teacher and receive feedback. Seesaw can be downloaded onto phones and tablets as well as accessed via a website if used on laptops or PCs and will enable us in the event of a class or school closure particularly, a way to continue to provide the required curriculum whilst the children are not in school. Our teachers are in the process of developing their understanding of how the app can be used and trialling it with the children in Class 2 by assigning homework activities. We have posted a video on our school website blog which will provide parents and pupils with an overview of what the platform looks like and how it is used. Until this program is in place, class teachers are continuing to post teaching and learning materials on the website, similar to the work being carried out in the classroom, for any children self-isolating to continue their learning at home – a link to the remote learning page for each class can be found on the class page on the website.

Covid Reminder

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the current Covid-19 advice. If a member of a household has developed Covid-19 symptoms and is waiting for the result of a test, then the entire household should self-isolate. Upon a positive result, the rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days from the day that the first person in the household developed symptoms. Upon a negative test result, all members of the household can return to work/school. However, if a member of a household has been contacted by track and trace or feel that they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 i.e. within one metre for longer than 15 minutes within the last 2 days, then people you live with do not need to self-isolate if you do not have symptoms i.e. if a parent has had contact and has no symptoms and the child hasn't had contact, then the child is able to come to school. Anyone who displays symptoms should book a test immediately. Please keep the school informed as to any child or family members who are displaying symptoms and who are attending tests and their results.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Parent Teacher Consultations

We would like to remind you that we are holding 10 minute telephone appointments to give you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. The dates are Class 2 - Tuesday 24th November and Thursday 26th November. Class 1 - Wednesday 25th November. Please contact the school office to arrange a convenient time and to provide a contact number for the teacher to contact you, thank you.



Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated to Children in Need on Friday 13th November. Children had fun dressing up and we raised an amazing £71.94.

Emails

Please check your emails regularly to ensure you do not miss any important information. The website is updated regularly if you would like to check what information has been sent out.

Trainee Teacher

From Monday 23rd November until Friday 18th December we will be hosting a B.ED student, Miss Peacock-Whitehead who will be working with Class 2.

Updates

In order to ensure that we are able to contact you and particularly for safeguarding purposes, it is essential that we have up to date information. Please notify the school office if there are any changes to the following:

- Contact information – address, mobile, landline, work, email
- Collection from school
- Medical or allergy information

Pupil records will be amended accordingly.

Routine reminder to check for Head Lice

Please remember to check your child's hair on a regular basis to make sure they do not have Head Lice. This is a very common childhood complaint and the best method of controlling the spread of infestation, is to regularly check children's hair using a small tooth comb. If treatment is required, your Pharmacist will be able to recommend appropriate treatment.

Lip Balm and Throat Lozenges

Could any parent who feels their child needs a lip balm (which should be clear, not coloured) or throat lozenges, please ensure they are handed in at the office in a plastic bag with the child's name. A permission form will need to be completed at the office. Your child will be able to use the lip balm or throat lozenges at break times/under supervision. This should alleviate any issues caused by sharing these items.

Guidance on infection control in schools

To ensure we prevent the spread of infections, please find below a reminder of the guidance with regards to the recommended period a child needs to be absent from school. Our most common illnesses/infections include:

Illness	Recommended period to be kept away from school
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered
Head Lice	None – treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen

Warm Clothing

We are currently following the current COVID-19 Government advice ensuring windows and doors are open throughout the school to allow ventilation. With this in mind, please ensure that your child comes to school in warm clothing every day.



Christmas Jumper Day

We will be taking part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December. Activities are being arranged during school, we are asking for voluntary donations, all money raised will be donated to Save the Children.

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday 15th December. If your child is on packed lunch and would like to have a Christmas lunch, please contact the school office.

Christmas Events

Due to current restrictions, unfortunately, this year we will not be taking part in the Christingle Service at The Churches Together and will not be holding our usual carol service.

The Christmas Performance

Due to current restrictions there will be no live Christmas Performance at the Village Hall. However, we intend to video our Christmas play and Nativity, and we will post these on our website in Christmas week.

Christmas Parties

The School Christmas Party will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 16th December. Children can bring party clothes into school and change after their lunch. There may be a visit from a special person! Friends of the School have kindly donated to this school event.

Dates for your diary...

Class 2 Parent Teacher Consultation	Tuesday 24 th November
Class 1 Parent Teacher Consultation	Wednesday 25 th November
Class 2 Parent Teacher Consultation	Thursday 26 th November
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 11 th December
Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 15 th December
Class 1 Christmas Party	Wednesday 16 th December
Class 2 Christmas Party	Wednesday 16 th December
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 18 th December
School Opens	Tuesday 5 th January

S. Kitching
Headteacher

D. Hassan
Deputy Headteacher