



11 September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Update – End of first full week

Routines and behaviour

I wanted to tell you how well the children have coped with our current systems, including lining up, hand washing and keeping their distances. Thank you, too, to you for making our staggered morning starts a success!

Play-times in class zones is working very well, and has resulted in much better play and calmer behaviour. Children are settling into their timetables and are managing to become more efficient (quicker) in their routines.

Managing symptoms / Testing

You will be aware from the news that Local Authorities in the North East are concerned about the rise in Covid-19 cases. We want school to remain fully open and for all children to attend. Some schools in the region and across the country have already had to partially close. The decision on closure will be taken with advice from Public Health and will be as a result of any positive cases we have.

We have had contact from some families where symptoms have developed and tests have been ordered – sometimes this means a long drive, or waiting for delivery and pick up of kits. Results are taking some time to be returned. As yet, from the information provided, and following advice from Public Health for some of our concerns, no further action has yet been necessary within our school.

The following guidance still applies; if children have any of the following symptoms they must stay at home and you should contact school to let us know:

- Cough*
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills*
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell*

Testing will normally only be offered for the three main symptoms (*a continuous cough, fever or high temperature, or a loss of taste/smell). In the case of the other symptoms you should be cautious, think about whether your child is normally susceptible (e.g to a sore throat) and seek medical advice from *NHS Direct* if you are worried your child has symptoms and think a test is necessary.

Please let us know if your child has symptoms or if you have arranged a test, and if they are being tested, please ensure that they stay off until the results come back, then let us know the outcome of the test.

Information from Monday 14th

You will all be aware that the guidance on social gatherings is changing from Monday, to limit group sizes to a maximum of six.

Whilst schools are exempt from this 'rule of 6', we would urge you to follow the guidance, particularly while you are doing the school run. Our staggered starts work well, and very few parents are at the gate at the same time. The same cannot be said for home time when our times are much closer together. **Please try to maintain a social distance of 2m where you can and don't gather in groups. Once you have collected your child(ren), please leave the school site/drive area straight away to make room for others.**

All of the information we have sent out to you can be found on the 'Newsletters' page of our school website: www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk or you can call us on 01429 836376 for more help. We are also continuing to post updates and other links on our Twitter feed, @hesledenprimary

Mrs Dunn