



Welcome back to school! - It is lovely to have all of our children back to school! We hope that we can get into 'new' routines quite quickly, especially since lots of children had some practice before the summer.

The letters and information which were shared with you in July, to support our reopening, can still be found on our website. Some of the information may be repeated here, but briefly. Please get in touch with us if you need help with any of our new routines.

I am sure that we will be in touch via letter quite often, depending on updates and guidance from both central government and the local authority. With this in mind, I have set out some of the most important key messages here, as a reminder, because we want to keep our school open to everyone as safely, and for as long as possible.

Our letters and information sent home are uploaded to our website at least half-termly, visit us at www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk; Up-to-date news and pictures are shared through our Twitter account, including home learning opportunities and other useful links, follow us at www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary



Beginning of the day – Thank you all for coming to school by our 'family rota', this is working well. It doesn't take long for even our newest and youngest children to learn a new routine. We will continue to develop good independent skills, but which includes supervision to ensure the safety of everyone.

Family Fridays & Assemblies - Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future, we won't be allowing parents, families or friends into school. This means our usual autumn term events for parents won't take place. We will try to keep other in-school events going – though with different organisation – and we will share these on Twitter. As soon as guidance allows, we will provide you with dates.

Parent Consultations - Although we won't be hosting parent consultations in school, we will be carrying them out by telephone before half-term. This will give teachers the opportunity to let you know how your children have settled back at school, what support they may need, and how you can help. You will also be able to share how you feel the term is going for your children.

If you need to speak to your child's teacher at any other time, please let us know by telephone (01429 836376), and we will make socially distanced arrangements.

Emergency Contacts / ParentPay

This year, we were unable to get you to update your child's data sheet during the summer term. If there have been any changes to your address/contact details etc., please let us know straight away so that we can update our emergency contact information.

Reminder: All parents **must** set up Parentpay accounts for each child they have in school – including parents of new Nursery children. Adding every child means that we can direct our messages to specific groups/classes, rather than the whole school at times when this is necessary.

It is not necessary to add money to the account (e.g. if children are entitled to free school meals, or bring packed lunch) but a **mobile number and email addresses are essential** as this is now the platform we use for our text messaging service. This is how we will share any urgent messages (including emergency school closure/opening information).

Attendance and Punctuality

The government have said that all children must return to school and that school attendance procedures are put back into place.

Obviously, children displaying COVID-19 symptoms, and those self-isolating will be treated separately and there are strict procedures to follow for this, but any other absences must be reported as previously – by leaving a message on our answer machine (option 1 for child absence) or by speaking to a member of staff on morning duty.

Health & Safety

- **Jewellery** (ear-rings; bracelets etc.) is not allowed in school and restricts the activities the children are allowed to do. Children should remove this before school. Watches and fitbits also need to be removed for PE.
- All girls and boys with **long hair** should tie their hair up for school. This helps to prevent the spread of head lice, and is necessary for PE and playing on the outdoor equipment.
- **PE Kits** to minimise disruption due to changing, the whole school will have **PE on a Thursday** afternoon – children should **come to school in their PE kit** for the day.
- Every child **MUST** bring their own **filled water bottle** – this will be sent home daily for cleaning and returning. Water bottles will be kept in class on children’s desks. Cups will not be provided.
- **MEDICINES:** We were unable to review Asthma and Health care plans with you during the summer term. Mrs Medcalf has reviewed those she can, and will be in touch with anyone directly as required. If you think changes are needed, please speak to Mrs Medcalf by telephone so that she make arrangements to meet with you. If your child requires an inhaler/other medicines and you have not returned these to school, please do so as soon as possible so that we can have all of the paperwork completed and passed over to their teachers.
- **FACE COVERINGS**
 - It is not recommended that children in primary schools wear a face covering, so we do not currently expect this. If children travel to school in a face covering, they must be taught how to remove it, and store it safely – this includes not touching them while on, washing hands and sanitising after removal. School staff may wear a face covering if they are in close contact with children, including administering first aid/serving food. They may also choose to wear face coverings when working together if social distancing cannot be safely maintained. It is unlikely that face coverings will be worn when teaching.
Due to personal circumstances, Mrs Gillespie will be wearing a face covering at this time.
 - Visitors, depending on the circumstance, may be requested to wear a face covering.

2020-21 School Holidays

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes	
Autumn 2020		Thursday 3 September 2020	
Autumn half-term 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 2 November 2020	
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	Monday 4 January 2021	
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021	
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021	
Summer half-term 2021	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021	
Summer 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021		
School will be closed for the following staff training days:			
1/2. Tue 1 & Wed 2 Sept 2020	3. Fri 20 Nov 2020	4. Mon 18 Jan 2021	5. Fri 28 May 2021

Parent Governor Vacancies

*Due to the reorganisation and restructure of the Governing body from this term, there are **vacancies for two Parent Governors** at Hesleden Primary School.*

Parent governors play an important role as members of the governing body. This involves several main responsibilities:

- plan the school's future direction
- be accountable for the overall performance of the school
- ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for all its pupils
- ensure that the school actively promotes the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- have strategic oversight of the school's budget and staffing
- ensure financial probity

The term of office for parent governors as determined by the governing body is 4 years. The school has high expectations of the time and commitment required from its governors in order to effectively fulfil their roles.

All parents of children at the school are eligible to stand for election. This includes:

- parents of children attending nursery, either full-time or part-time
- any person who is not a natural parent but has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

Parents who are employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year are NOT eligible to stand for election as Parent Governors.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor and would like to know more, please contact the school to speak to Mrs Dunn. Interested parents will need to complete a nomination form, also available from school, or by email. Nominees must be proposed by a parent of a pupil registered at the school. A parent may nominate his/her partner.

Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary and any remaining vacancies will be appointed by the Governing Body.

Any completed and duly signed nomination forms should be returned to the school by midday on Monday 21st September.

Should a ballot be required the school will send each parent a voting form. When the process has been finalised, the school will inform the parent body via its newsletter, website or other means and Education Durham Governance Services will write formally to the candidates with the outcome.

Successful candidates will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosing and Barring Service check prior to final appointment.