



Welcome back to school! - It is lovely to have all of our children back to school! We hope that we can get back into our 'Covid' routines quite quickly, especially since the children are keen and excited to be back!

Unfortunately, we have returned from the weekend to find the heating in school is not working properly! We hope that this can be rectified as soon as possible as our old building is very cold. We will do our best to carry on, although your children may tell you they have been wearing their coats in class!

Heating aside, I hope that we can have as settled a term as we did in the autumn. We were very lucky to keep all of our classes in school for the whole term. Hopefully by following our health & safety risk assessment, and the good practices we have in place, we will do this. Obviously some things are still very different and we will keep you up to date with any changes in guidance, or in what we think we can do. We thank you for your ongoing support, and in return if you need anything from us, please ask.

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

Return to learning

Teachers have been impressed with the work children have been doing while they have been at home. The structure and variety provided by our remote learning grids seems to have kept a lot of children engaged.

Over the three weeks to the Easter break, children will be reviewing what they have learnt and will be assessed on what they can remember. This will be done informally so that teachers can make their judgements and decide how best to teach topics in the summer term.

Although we won't be holding Parent Consultations this term, we hope that teachers will be able to contact you before we break up, just to let you know how your children are getting on. We'll also be sending a link to a parent survey to help us understand how you and your children managed during this latest lockdown period. Please look out for this in a week or two.

Easter activities

Although we can't hold our usual craft afternoons, we will be ending the term with in-school activities including Easter crafts, an activity carousel, a visit from Hoopstarz and an outdoor Easter service with Rev. Sue. There will be other treats and surprises along the way!

2020-21 School Holidays

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes
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	Thursday 2 September 2021
School will be closed for the following staff training day: Fri 28 May 2021		

Covid-19 Asymptomatic Testing – Staff

- In Primary schools, rapid flow testing for staff has been ongoing since January. The current testing requirement is 'opt-in' and staff are free to make this choice. Participating staff are asked to carry out the lateral flow device test at home twice a week and report their results to NHS Test and Trace, and to School.
- If results are negative, then we carry on as normal. If a test is positive, the member of staff must then take a PCR test at a registered centre to confirm the positive result.
- We need to tell you about staff testing because if a LFD test returns as positive, the staff member and all close contacts (most likely the class bubble) have to self-isolate immediately until the PCR test results are received.
- On some occasions the PCR test might return as negative, in which case all affected people can return to school as normal, probably after 1-2 days' absence. If it confirms the positive result then isolation must continue in line with government guidelines (10 days from the date of the test).
- This testing is asymptomatic (no symptoms). Obviously any child or adult displaying symptoms would register for a PCR test by calling 119, and any bubble closures or self-isolation would be dependent on that result. All results are confidential and you would only be informed if your child was a 'close contact' and needed to follow isolation guidelines.

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school

- NHS Test and Trace have announced that all adults in households with school age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.
- Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. We are not able to provide families with test kits.
- Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.
- Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:
 - through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
 - by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
 - by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most
- [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.