



Letters and information sent home are uploaded to our website at least half-termly, visit us at [www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk](http://www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk); Up-to-date news and pictures are shared through our Twitter account, including teaching and learning activities and useful links, follow us at [www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary](https://www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary)



Twitter.com



School website

## School run

While we are slowly returning to our usual routines in school, we are continuing to use a staggered start to maintain a calmer arrival, and to help with ongoing parking issues. **However, all children should be in school by 8.55am.** This is when registers are taken and morning challenges / interventions have already started. A reminder of our staggered start times are:

Family surname initial / Time	Family surname initial / Time	Family surname initial / Time
A – C 8.40-8.45am	D – L 8.45-8.50am	M – Z 8.50-8.55am

## Updated guidance for Covid-19

Whilst the legal requirement for those testing positive to self-isolate was removed from 24th February, adults and children who do test positive for Covid-19 continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. The guidance for individuals states that children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting whilst they are infectious.

The national Public Health advice is that anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 should self-isolate at home for at least 5 full days, with LFD testing starting from 5 days after the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if there are no symptoms) and be undertaken daily until there are two consecutive negative tests at which point self-isolation may end provided the case has no fever/high temperature.

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that children with the key symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend school given the potential risk to others. If you insist on your child attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, I can, under the guidance, take the decision to refuse them if, in my reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect others from possible infection with Covid-19. Hopefully this will not be necessary.

There is no requirement for close contacts and household contacts of cases to self-isolate or undertake 7 days of LFD testing and this includes unvaccinated adults.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child has any of these symptoms, you should order a PCR test. Your child is advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

Please continue to let us know about any illnesses or Covid issues. You can contact school on 01429 836376, you can also leave a message on the absence line (we will usually call you back). Out of school hours you can email [hesleden@durhamlearning.net](mailto:hesleden@durhamlearning.net) – this is checked regularly.

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Easter 2022	Friday 8 April 2022	Monday 25 April 2022
Summer half-term 2022	Thursday 26 May 2022	Monday 6 June 2022
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 July 2022	
<b>School will be closed for staff training on:</b>		
	<b>21.3.22</b>	27.5.22

## Foodbank / Pre-loved clothing

Our entrance porch continues to stock a huge selection of clothing, of all sizes, and is well worth a look – especially for the winter. There are a number of warm winter and waterproof coats, and a good range of tops and bottoms for easy changes. We can easily let you know about sizes in stock if you give us a call. (Note – we are not currently collecting uniform donations, but will let you know when we're ready to restart).

Our foodbank continues to have a range of foods – breakfasts, lunches and dinners – feel free to pop in and take what you need. Everything is in good date and sorted regularly. Donations for the foodbank are always welcomed.

## Events updates

A letter was sent home at the end of term to let you know that:

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – After school film night (details coming very soon!)
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) – these can now be bought for £1.50 each
- w/c 4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter activities & competitions in school – to be planned with the children

As you will be aware, all legal restrictions for C-19 have been removed, however we will still be cautious. We had already planned to return to in-person assemblies, and to return to the hall for lunches anyway, although children will continue to play in zones to minimise behaviour incidents, and we will continue to sanitise hands and use ventilation as preventative measures.

Looking ahead at our calendar, we hope to be able to invite families to engage in some of our activities later in the summer term. At the minute, this will include a celebratory family picnic and entertainment (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May) for the Platinum jubilee, and an end of summer term fair / fun day (date to be decided). Plans continue to be made, and we will let you know details as soon as we can. At this time, we plan for large audience events to be outdoors and, at this time, we think that we will hold a second, annual 'proud of me' day, rather than a formal awards day in July.

## Parent Consultations

We will be holding this term's parent consultations by telephone. These phone calls will take place during w/c 21<sup>st</sup> March and 28<sup>th</sup> March, with teachers making every effort to speak to every parent/carer.

## Reminders

**Online safety & Mobile devices** – over the last half term we have dealt with a number of issues spilling over into school from some children's inappropriate behaviour while using social media apps on mobile devices (phones/iPads etc.). We have written previously to provide support with this and we post help pages regularly on our Twitter feed. Unfortunately, on the last day of term we were made aware that a number of individuals had been bringing their phones into school and taking photos and videos. We have spoken to all parents concerned and want to reinforce the message that **no personal devices (iPads/tablets/mobiles) are allowed in school**. If they are brought in by accident, they can be stored in the office for the day, but if they are discovered, they will be removed for parents to collect.

**Make-up and jewellery** – we have noticed an increase in bracelets and other jewellery items being worn for school. This is not allowed in school and should be removed before children come onto site. Children found to be wearing any jewellery will be told to remove it for safe-keeping.

A growing number of older KS2 girls are also wearing make-up (eye-shadow/mascara) and false nails. This is not appropriate in primary school and children should not be wearing either to school.

**[Y6] Secondary Admissions** – 1<sup>st</sup> March is National Offer Day – you should, by now, know which secondary school your Y6 child has been offered. **If you are happy with the offer, you don't need to do anything**. You should only contact [schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk) if you do not wish to accept the offer of the place made.

*While our new half-term started with no heating and no internet, both are now back up and running and we are slowly getting back to normal. We hope we can have an enjoyable six weeks to Easter with the various things we have planned.*

*If you need any further information, or we can help with anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch.*

Mrs Dunn