



SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone

As we come to the end of this half term, I write this message hoping that things will return to normal soon.

After half term, we will continue to be open for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils only, as identified in the document 'Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

As a step forward however, we will be moving those children eligible to be in school back into class groups and we will resume our staggered start/finish times which I have added as a reminder:

Miss Mawson	Class 1	8.45 – 2.45	This class will continue to be taught in the hall
Miss Dobson	Class 2	9.05 – 3.05	
Miss Marr	Class 3	8.55 – 2.55	
Mrs Boulton	Class 4	9.00 – 3.00	

In addition to this, nursery will resume for all children from Monday 22nd February. This is for 15 hours a week and will be from 8.55 – 11.55am daily.

If you have any questions, please give me a ring and I will be happy to discuss our plans for moving forward.

Over half term, please get in touch with school if your child tests positive after having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school via l.jackson@towlaw.durham.sch.uk This will allow us to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation.

Enjoy your half term.

Regards

Lisa Jackson

Headteacher



Wellbeing

Now more than ever, during a national lockdown, wellbeing is crucially important. If you have any concerns or questions relating to wellbeing and/or mental health, please contact the member of staff responsible for remote learning in your child's class and they will communicate with our Wellbeing and Mental Health Lead, Miss Dobson.

Remember to look out for 'Star of the Week' videos that are sent on a Friday afternoon and our 'Star of the Week' certificates. Keep up the hard work children – it could be you next week!

School Uniform Planning

Children who are in school need to wear school uniform and trainers so they can complete PE activities. On PE days children can also come to school in plain joggers. KS2 bubble PE days are Monday and Wednesday. KS1 bubble PE days are Tuesday and Thursday.

Critical worker please keep in touch

If your circumstances change please contact us asap to allow us to plan and get your child into school to allow you to go to work.



Values

School staff have completed work on our 'Vision and Values'. We now need your help and opinions in moving this work forward. We will be sending an email out asking your opinion on the 'Values' that are important to our school as a whole school community.



Important Dates

Spring Half-Term 2020 (1 week)	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
Easter 2021 (2 weeks)	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day (1 day)	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer Half-Term 2021 (1 week 3 days)	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021 (6 weeks)	Friday 16 July 2021	To be determined

Inset Days (School Closed) Friday 28 May 2021 Monday 19 July 2021 Tuesday 20 July 2021



School Office Update

Thank you to all parents and staff who have welcomed me to the school, it's been extremely busy in the office managing all the changes due to Covid-19, we have had to adapt the office as well as the school to many new ways of working.

We have carried out risk assessments to minimise the spread of the virus between parents, children and staff. Thank you to everyone who is following our guidelines and wears a facemask on the school yard and when calling in to the school reception area.

ParentPay

We have made great progress with engaging parents in the new cashless and messaging service, we know we have had a few teething troubles initially, but we now only have a handful of parents who we are helping to activate their accounts. If you need any technical support on the system, please contact the school office.

Contact Details

If you have any changes to your contact numbers, please let the office know, whilst we are working on an APP for you to do this from the comfort of your home. It is important that you also go into your ParentPay account and validate your new mobile number or email address too, the office is unable to do this for you as your account is password protected.

Reporting Absences

Please contact the school office to report any sickness or medical appointments even if your child is remote learning. The school takes part in providing statistical data to the Department of Education, which contributes to the overall information the Government use on the slides on the BBC 5pm daily updates and by the scientists.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

We are working hard to reduce the consumables such as paper we use in the office and recycling as much as we can. Staff are being encouraged to wear washable face masks or face shields to reduce the number of disposable face masks we are using, an item which has hit the headlines recently as wildlife are now having to deal with them. We have some way to go to becoming carbon neutral, but we are continually looking at ways to make an impact long term.

Hope you all keep safe and have a relaxing break over the half term holidays

Jenny Linsley – Office Manager



Easter Egg Competition



Please design an Easter egg, take a picture and send it to Mrs Jackson

