

Autumn Term Newsletter



Parents and Carers Additional Measures Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

Information regarding additional measures in school

There has been a large increase in the number of children and young people in County Durham testing positive for COVID-19 and the highest case rates are in school age children. This is leading to spread of COVID-19 within families and into older age groups.

We know that the vaccine is helping to prevent serious illness and deaths. However, the vaccine does not always stop people from becoming infected or spreading COVID-19 and we know that those with underlying conditions are more vulnerable.

The increase in COVID-19 cases in children is disrupting their education, affecting schools and has an impact on the wider community. Our priority remains, to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to-face education and minimise any disruption. However, we don't think this can be achieved without considering additional measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

We have made recommendations for schools to consider. As a result, your school may contact you to advise on some changes in your school. These changes may include:

- The use of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for secondary age pupils
- The use of face coverings in communal areas for all adults
- Staggering start and finish times
- Reducing mixing of pupils in school by grouping pupils by class or year group
- To cancel or postpone educational visits and residential trips
- Open days or events to move to a virtual format
- To cancel or postpone whole school events e.g., assemblies

These recommendations build on the ongoing work by schools to ensure good ventilation, cleaning, and respiratory and hand

hygiene. They will be reviewed as infection levels change.

In addition, we are also asking you to support your school with increased testing when there is a positive COVID-19 case in your household:

- PCR testing for all adults and pupils if they are a close contact of a positive case in your household*.
- Daily LFT testing at home for 7 days for any adult, secondary age pupil or primary key stage 2 pupil who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive*.

*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms

Please also carefully consider the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12-15 years.

Ordering or collecting LFD home testing kits

We would recommend you have a supply of LFD testing kits at home in the event you need to use them. You can order home testing kits to be delivered to your home here www.gov.uk/order-

[coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](#)

Or you can collect LFD testing kits at Community Collect sites across the County. To find your nearest collection point please enter your post code here maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

If you pick up tests from a pharmacy, you may be asked for a 'collect code' this helps the NHS match your details to the tests. To get a 'collect code' please visit test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits

Please register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

What to do if you develop symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or test positive for COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

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

If you or a member of your household develops symptoms, you should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. Book a free PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test If positive, you should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111

at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

If you have a positive test result but do not have symptoms you should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if you go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

Help, support, and further information.

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19/help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Thank you again for everything you are doing to support you child and your school and in helping to keep your family and community safe.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Healy

Director of Public Health

Jim Murray

Head of Education and Skills

Open the Book Assembly

A huge thank you to Reverend Caroline and her friend for coming into school today to deliver a lovely open the book assembly. The children enjoyed listening to the story of Adam and Eve trying the forbidden fruit from the apple tree in the garden of Eden. We discussed how important it is to look after our world.

UNCRC Article 14 – every child has the right to practise their own religion



Punctuality

It is great to see so many children arriving to school on time and being involved in their learning right from the beginning of the day. Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 begin their phonics sessions at 8.45 am and Class 4 and Class 5 begin their challenge time activities at 8.45 am.

We also have co-ordination programmes, reading/maths/speech and language interventions and le

STEM Day

UNCRC 29 – education should develop each child’s talents.

In school we had a whole school STEM day as part of our involvement with Bring It On Net Zero North East. Each class took part in an activity.

Class 1

Class 1 had sooo much fun thinking about ways that we could create a bridge for a train to cross; using different materials. The language and vocabulary that came from this was amazing and children were using words like “strong”, “sturdy” and “flexible!” Well done Class 1 you love a challenge and as always

made it the best of fun



Class 2

We had lots of fun taking part in the egg drop science experiment. We worked in pairs to wrap up an egg with different materials. The aim of the experiment was to protect our egg from cracking when it was dropped from a height. We had lots of fun!



Class 3

Class 3 were given a challenging teambuilding task, to build a tower out of paper. They worked so hard as a team and made some amazing towers that stood up and held different objects. They had so much fun finding a way of building their tower and working out how to put it together.



circumstances. Absence during term time should be avoided because children can fall behind with their work and may find it difficult to integrate. An application using the leave of absence form (available from the school office) for leave must be made in writing to the Head Teacher, detailing the exceptional circumstances. The Head Teacher must be satisfied the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. If you do not apply for leave in advance, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

Texts/Mail

We regularly send texts/mail to parents with details of events happening in school or just reminders. Please notify school if you haven't received any texts/mail in the last month. Your contact details may need updating.

School Website

Please continue to look at our school website on

www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

Diary Dates

For Second Half Term:

Fri 5th Nov- Class 2 visit to Beamish Museum

Thur 11th Nov- Remembrance Service for school children only

W/B 8th Nov- Afterschool Clubs return as normal

Fri 12th Nov- Y5/6 School Sleepover in aid of CRISIS

Tue 16th Nov- Rights Respecting Gold Re-accreditation Assessment Day

Thur 18th Nov- Flu Vaccine

Fri 19th Nov- Children in Need Day

Wed 24th Nov- Class 3 School Trip to Newcastle Castle

Fri 26th Nov- TEACHER INSET DAY- School closed

Mon 29th Nov- Children return to school

Holidays in Term Time

Our school attendance last year increased to 97.13%. Our school attendance target is 96%. This target is National Average and therefore now slightly above. Thankyou so much for you support. Ofsted evaluate school attendance and a low attendance can affect school's Ofsted judgements. We continue to see a large increase in requests for holidays in term time. Just to remind parents and carers that as of 1st September 2013, Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional

KS2- Christmas Pantomime Workshop Day

Tue 30th Nov- KS1 Christmas Pantomime

Wed 1st Dec- Christmas Post Box opens

Fri 3rd Dec- Decorate Christmas Tree

Mon 6th Dec- End of Term Pupil Reports

Tue 7th Dec- Class 4/5 Christmas Performance

Thur 9th Dec- Class 1/2/3 Christmas Performance

Fri 10th Dec- Christmas Fair

Tue 14th Dec- Christingle Service

Wed 15th Dec- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thur 16th Dec- Christmas Party

Fri 17th Dec- End of Term

Tue 4th Jan- Teacher INSET Day

Wed 5th Jan- Children return to school

Further letters will follow about different events.

Absences

If your child is unwell, please contact school office as soon as possible by 9am. It is important that children attend school as often as possible because if they are not in school they cannot learn

PE Kit

Please could children remember to bring PE kit on a Monday and leave it at school until Friday. Each class has certain days on the timetable but we constantly have coaches and sporting experiences for the children so days can change. We are a Sainsbury's Games Platinum Mark School and now have the AFPE (Association for Physical Education) award which is given to schools who promote and maintain high standards and safe practice in all aspects of PE. Many Thanks.

Class 2's Memorable Experience trip to Beamish Museum

Class 2 went to beamish museum as part of our new cornerstones topic Memory Box. We had lots of

fun looking and playing with toys from the past, riding on the tram, looking around the old shops and banks as well as looking in old houses. We can't wait to incorporate all we have experienced into all of our learning back in class.

UNCRC Article 29 – develop children's talents





**Class 3's Memorable Experience
Castle Day**

Class 3 have had an amazing day celebrating our new Cornerstones topic with all thing Castles!

They build their very own castles, made lots of amazing decorations and took their places at the Medieval Banquet. They all looked absolutely amazing! Here are some pictures of what we got up to...



**Class 4's Misty Mountain Sierra
Topic Launch**

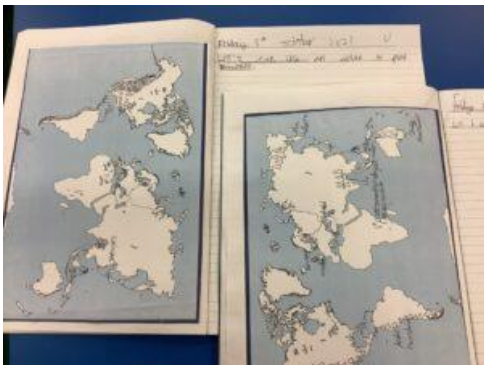
Misty Mountain Sierra – memorable experience

UNCRC Article 29 – Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

Class 4 went on an amazing virtual tour of the Misty Mountains of the World, including the Dragon Mountains in South Africa. We used the web to research satellite and webcam images of mountains and panoramas and discussed how the air would change.



In geography, we used atlases to plot the locations of famous mountains on a World map.



In art we created amazing mountain design plans ready to create our very own 3D clay sculptures!



Remembrance Day 11.11.21

UNCRC Article Link: 38 – Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war.

On the 11th day of the 11th month; on the 11th hour Nettlesworth Primary School got together to take part in our annual Remembrance Day assembly. We have been working hard in Art & History as a whole school to create different displays in preparation for this day and it was great to see it all put together. We had some wonderful poems shared by the children in Class 5 who have been working hard on this area for literacy homework.

Thank you for all of your donations to the charity; Royal British Legion.





TT Rockstars England Rocks

A massive well done to every single child and their adults for the commitment and drive to succeed this week during our TT Rockstars ENGLAND ROCKS Competition. The children have been working incredibly hard both in school and at home to enhance their multiplication knowledge and gain points for the competition. Well done to all who achieved a certificate for coming in the top 3 in their respective classes, and a huge well done to Harry, Luke, Harry, George, Jake for coming 1st.

Remember to keep up the good work.



UK Parliamentary Week

UNCRC Article 13 – freedom of expression

What a superb week of debate we have had this week at Nettlesworth Primary School. We have deployed our Rights Respecting Gold Ethos throughout the whole week as we learned about Parliament, the Government, what debates are and how we can organise our own campaign in order to enhance our very own community. Even though UK Parliamentary Week has ended, we will be continuing our work across the coming weeks with a debate that will be sent to our local MP.

Once again, the children have shown a fabulous Rights Respecting Gold ethos and were a real credit. Well done everyone.



Crisis Support Sleep Over – 12.11.21

UNCRC Article 27 (adequate standard of living)

What an experience we have all just had – a sleep over with a difference!

In support to our Charity – Crisis Support – our children spent the night in school sleeping on the hall floor to re-enact what it would be like if we were to be homeless. The children made shelters from cardboard boxes, ate soup from the soup kitchen and made clothing from plastic bags. This has been a real eye-opener for the children, who all demonstrated their Rights Respecting Ethos in how they conducted themselves throughout the evening. Well done Class 5; you have shone once again.





Music – Edvard Grieg – 12.11.21

UNCRC Article 28 (right to education)

What fabulous fun we all had trying to recreate ‘In the hall of the Mountain King’ by Edvard Grieg. Keeping the beat whilst working together as a team really did test our Rights Respecting Gold Ethos.

A superb effort by all.



been eaten during the Ancient Maya up to the current times. The smells from the classroom were fantastic and it was so pleasing to hear that the children were so inspired by their new tastes, they went home and encouraged their own adults to make Mexican foods.

We can't wait for the rest of the topic.

Well done Class 5.



Maths Day

UNCRC Article 28: Every child has a right to an Education.

Today we took part in a whole schools mental arithmetic day. It was so much fun to see Mrs Aspinall and Miss Grimes teach us different activities linking to the number work we have been doing.



Hola Mexico – Engagement – 11.11.21

UNCRC Article 28 (right to education)

What a fabulous day we have had sampling all things Mexico! As part of the Engagement for our new Cornerstones Curriculum topic – Hola Mexico – the children from Class 5 spent the afternoon tasting a variety of Mexican foods that would have



Second Week Highlights

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to relax and play.

This week we have introduced the fire circle up at our Forest Schools site and read a fantastic story all about saving our woodlands linking to all of the talks that are happening globally in the news at the moment. We have been ordering numbers up to 5 and learning lots of new sounds in phonics. Our new topic 'Under the Sea' has got us looking at animals and sea

creatures that may be extinct, so we have been thinking of ways to help save our sea life.



