

# North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson  
Tel: 01388 815943

E-mail: [northpark@durhamlearning.net](mailto:northpark@durhamlearning.net)  
Web-site: [www.northpark.durham.sch](http://www.northpark.durham.sch)

16.3.20

## Coronavirus advice

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

I understand and share exactly the same worries and concerns as you - staff all have families, many have young children, aged family members and family members who are unwell or have underlying health conditions; it is difficult not to feel some worry given the levels of media reporting.

I want to assure you we take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE). We check daily for updates and where necessary have contacted them ourselves. The advice changes regularly but the most up to date advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We have been advised that the risk is currently low in County Durham, although we know this can change. However, to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

- Ensuring we encourage children to wash hands regularly – as they arrive, after outdoor activity, before eating, before food preparation, after going to the toilet and before coming home.
- Maintaining our high standards of cleanliness – cleaners in school ensure surfaces, handles, etc are cleaned; they undertaking deep-cleaning on surfaces daily.
- Follow advice - the most recent UK government advice is that anyone with **a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature** should self-isolate for **seven days**. We are following this guidance. Current advice is that should the symptoms get worse in that time then you call 111. **Please check online in case this advice has changed**. If no symptoms are present then current advice states that children should come to school.
- We are reviewing some of the activities we are undertaking to assess risk, based on Government advice – for examples visits and visitors; some of these have been cancelled already by providers and we are assessing others. At the moment, **from tomorrow the following have now been cancelled** (due to the possibility of staff and children coming into contact with other groups, where we cannot control handwashing, etc.)
  - **Swimming for both Year 1 (Mondays) and Year 3 (Wednesdays)**
  - **Gymnastics for Year 5 (Mondays)**
  - **Year 5 visit to Whitworth Park (17 March)**
  - **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea – Year 3 (17<sup>th</sup> March)** (scones will be sent home)
  - **Year 6 Safety Carousel (19 March)**
  - **Football (19<sup>th</sup> March)**
  - **Parent Meetings to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March are cancelled and will be re-scheduled**
  - **Year 2 Family Assembly (26 March)**
  - **Easter journey – Year 5 (26 March)**
  - **Year 6 visit to Eden Camp (27 March)**
  - **Basketball Final (31<sup>st</sup> March)**
  - **Year 4 visit to Pizza Express (1<sup>st</sup> April)**
  - **Easter Service at St Andrew's Church (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**



SCHOOL MEMBER



# North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson  
Tel: 01388 815943

E-mail: [northpark@durhamlearning.net](mailto:northpark@durhamlearning.net)  
Web-site: [www.northpark.durham.sch](http://www.northpark.durham.sch).

If circumstances arise where the school must close (whole school or individual year groups due to staff absence) we will inform you in our usual way – text messages, website and LA school closure site. If we have staff absent, we will do our best to deploy additional adults to minimise disruptions; we hope to avoid any whole scale closure of year groups or school, until we are advised otherwise by the Department for Education.

We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this. Practically we are not able to manage individual requests for education packs etc. other than for whole school closure, but will do our best to arrange for you to collect any resources available at that time in class, or have the teacher direct you to some online resources, if possible.

## Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home (as advised above) and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

If you or your children have returned from abroad in the last 14 days, please follow the link below for advice about category 1 and 2 countries.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

**Symptoms to look out for** - if you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

- **Cough**
  - **Difficulty in breathing**
  - **Fever (a temperature of 37.8° C or higher)**
- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses. Please see the link below for information about self-isolation.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>
- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same. If you have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact school. Thank you for your support and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Monk

