



Hipsburn Primary School, Lesbury, ALNWICK, Northumberland. NE66 3PX

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Headteacher Mr Kevin Moloney

3.3.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and continuing to keep safe. Once again I would like to say many thanks for your patience and support at this challenging time. To date we have been working on and developing the Action Plan and undertaking the numerous risk assessments which will enable us to see the return of ALL our children next week - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Bubbles**

The children will learn, work and play in their own class "bubble" using their classroom independently. They will enter and exit using their own door and have sole access to handwashing / sanitising and toilet facilities. We are also following stringent additional cleaning procedures. Children will also have safe access to outside points throughout the day. This will be reviewed following Government, PHE and NCC guidelines and we will keep you informed whenever there are any changes.

A reminder for March 2021:

Bubble 1 - This will be Pre-school and Reception (Warkworth and Alnwick Class)

Bubble 2 - This will be Year 1 and Year 2 (Bamburgh Class)

Bubble 3 - This will be Year 3 and Year 4 (Ford Class)

Bubble 4 - This will be Year 5 and Year 6 (Etal Class)

There will be signs in all the windows (detailing which bubble is which). The biggest change is that we will no longer have key worker children entering the school (currently Bubble 1 enter via the main entrance).

### **Pick up and drop off...**

Only one adult per child should drop off and collect and we expect adults to maintain social distancing rules at these times. Please follow any further mandatory rules set by the government (which may change over the next few months). We will be asking that these instructions (particularly timings) are strictly adhered to as gates will be locked promptly. Gates will be open for parents to pass through and these will be closed and locked by school staff. I appreciate that drop off times may be a challenge for those families who have children





throughout the school. We will be as accommodating as possible – teachers will be in the entrance to their bubble so for example if you are dropping a child off at preschool you should be able to then take a child around to another bubble. Your support and patience in this structure for the beginning and end of the school day would be appreciated. For older children who arrive at school independently they **MUST** arrive at the appropriate time for the start of their school day and they will not be allowed to play on the yard – this also includes after school.

**Please find attached the timetable for March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### **Uniform**

We expect children to wear full school uniform. It is still the weather for hats and scarfs too! For younger children please provide a change of clothes in their school bag. Procedures for PE will continue as were in place in September and if you have any further queries please contact your class teacher.

### **School lunches**

Each Bubble will be given an allocated lunch break time; lunches will be eaten in the school hall. The menu will be week 1 for those children having a school dinner.

### **Playtime**

Each Bubble will play outside and will have an allocated time. They will not share a yard / area with another Bubble at the same time and, similar to now, they will have their own PE resources which will not be shared with another Bubble. Please remind your child that the shared climbing frames and wooden trim trail have been taped off.

### **Assemblies**

There will be no whole school assemblies and there will be no coming together as a whole school for singing or shared activities. We will carry out class assemblies within Bubbles. Sadly, this means at the moment we will not be able to share our assemblies with parents.

### **Water bottles**

Each child **MUST** bring their own water bottle; they may wish to bring two to save the need for refilling.

### **Toilet breaks**

Children will have regular but designated toilet breaks. Each bubble will have their own toilets which will not be shared with another bubble. These practises are all in school now and we have been following these procedures successfully since the beginning of the pandemic.



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### **First Aid and Intimate Care**

Where it is safe for both the child and adult - care will be given immediately. However, should a child require more intimate care it may be necessary for school to contact parents to collect children and care for them at home.

### **If your child is ill**

Please do not send your child into school if they are unwell. If they are not going to be in school, please contact the school via the admin email address / leave a message on the answerphone. If your child displays COVID 19 symptoms, please contact school immediately. You will then be able to ring NHS 119 and access a test. Please do not come into school until the results are known and a negative result is given. Please contact school immediately upon receiving a test result and we will be able to guide you further according to current government guidelines.

### **If your child displays symptoms in school**

We would need to isolate your child (we will be using the Log Cabin). A member of staff will wait with them until they are collected. We would then follow current guidelines and contact families as necessary whilst following current protocols.

### **Wraparound provision**

The government has requested that 'schools work towards resuming wrap around care facilities for working parents from 8th March'. We (along with similar schools) are working with specialists from the LA to find ways in which we can resume our wrap around care provision as soon as possible, whilst strictly adhering to the government guidelines around 'bubbles' and staffing levels.

We fully appreciate that before and after school clubs are essential for many of our families and we are making every effort to find a workable solution. To help us with this, we will be emailing a short questionnaire to gauge the current level of requirement. We appreciate your patience and support with this matter.

I would like to reassure you that the whole team has your child's safety as our number one priority and whilst some of the decisions we must take can be challenging for both us and you they aim to ensure we all come through this together, safe and well. No setting can give a 100% guarantee that there is no risk at all but we are taking all the steps within our power to ensure any risks posed are minimised and prepared for.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you for supporting your children if they have not been in school. I am also very grateful to the Hipsburn team who have worked hard to ensure that the



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children who have been attending school since January 4<sup>th</sup> have been busy learning within a safe and happy environment.

Thank you again for your support and adhering to the government guidance. We will see you all again on 8<sup>th</sup> March!

Best Wishes,

Kevin Moloney

Headteacher