



Explore, Learn and Grow Together

Brewery Road
Wooler
Northumberland
NE71 6QF

Wednesday 2nd September

2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This will be my final note before we reopen to all pupils tomorrow morning. It has been quite a journey but I am confident that we are ready to get back into the swing of things here at school. We had a full day of training and briefings yesterday with all staff and there are some final details that everyone needs to know before we welcome the children into school in the morning. Rather than send out two different letters for Wooler First School and Glendale Middle School I have noted the key information for each school in two different sections below. If you have children attending both Wooler First School and Glendale Middle School you will need to carefully read both sections as arrangements are slightly different in response to the age of the children and the organisation of the timetable/curriculum at each school. A further email will follow to parents and carers from individual teachers and form tutors by the end of the week with information specific to classes/forms. This will include information about timetables, P.E. days, swimming etc. **There will be no swimming or P.E. this week.**

Key information for the start of term for Wooler First School:

- Little Acorns Nursery will be operating as has become our normal over the last few months. Parents and carers to follow the one-way systems and drop-off and collection will be next to the red barriers by the swimming pool ramp as parents and carers will not be allowed into the setting.
- Children in Reception to Year 4 will only need to bring to school a book bag, their coat and lunchbox if they are not having a school meal. No other school bags will be permitted. Each child needs to have a water bottle in school (many are already here in school from last term). These will stay in school and be washed each day by staff. Please remember water bottles need to be clear/see through and be named. Teachers will provide all learning resources in their classroom bubbles.
- Children at Wooler first School will not be allowed to carry their own hand sanitiser with them – each class has sanitiser available throughout the day which will be managed by staff.
- Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will need a suitable face mask for coming onto the school grounds and for the limited times when they may move around the school. **They will not be wearing these when in their classroom bubble.**

Key information for the start of term for Glendale Middle School:

- All Glendale children will need a suitable school bag (not too big!), a coat, their pencil case with pen, pencil, ruler etc. a water bottle (clear), a suitable face mask and their lunchbox if they are not having a school meal.
- Glendale children will be expected to wear their face mask when coming onto the school grounds and for when they may move around the school. **They will not be wearing these when in their classroom bubbles.**
- Glendale children will be allowed to have personal hand sanitiser with them as long as they are sensible in how and when they use it – teachers will monitor this in lessons.

As we start the term tomorrow we will be implementing all of the plans and preparations that we have made over the last few weeks. We are confident that these plans are robust but we also appreciate that we will need to continue to be flexible as we monitor how our systems stand up to having all of the children and staff back in the school. If an element of what we are doing is not working well we will make appropriate changes quickly and sensibly. Our key focus for the first days and weeks of the term is to safely welcome the children back into school, to establish our working routines, to re-engage the children in their learning in the classroom and to assess where they

are academically and emotionally. This is following the guidance from the government and will enable us to then develop further our plans for individual and group catch up work to start later in the term.

We will also be reviewing our use of Seesaw and how we might use this technology effectively when children are back in school. As teachers will be focusing on the classroom environment and learning we will not be using Seesaw at the start of this term. I would also like to remind parents and carers of our expectations for email communications directly to teachers and form tutors. We need to have a sensible approach to this and I have instructed staff not to be on their work email after 5pm and before 8.30am. Please also be patient with timeframes for a response as all staff will be teaching throughout the day and will be either in meetings or undertaking planning, preparation, assessment and marking before and after the main times of the school day. We will endeavour to respond quickly but please allow several working days for a response before following up – thank you. If your query is urgent please contact the school office.

I have also been speaking to several families today and checking on what information has been shared from NCC about school transport. It is our understanding that school transport will operate 'as normal' in terms of pick up and drop off times and locations. All parents and carers were sent information via school from NCC about expectations for children while on school transport last week and I would impress upon those who use school transport to speak to their children about what is expected of them on these journeys. Guidance on face coverings on school transport has also been shared but I would add to this my own views and encourage all children to wear a suitable face mask when on school transport. I will be out in the morning from 8.30am just in case any of the school buses or taxis arrives early and we will of course look after any early arrivals. It may well be that it takes a little longer to get all of the children on the correct buses tomorrow afternoon, this is normal on our first couple of days of the new school year but systems quickly establish and children and staff soon get to know who needs to be where.

Finally – please, **please, please** follow the one way systems and arrival/collection times and procedures as we start the term. Only by us all working well together will we be able to smoothly get all of the children safely in and out of school each day. Keep safe and thank you all in advance for your support and cooperation as we get our schools open and operating again.

M.Deane-Hall
Executive Headteacher