

Seghill First School

Main Street North, Seghill
Northumberland, NE23 7SB
Tel: 0191 237 0419
Fax: 0191 237 3518
admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



27 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letters of 12 May, 15 May and 22 May, I am writing to you again about the phased reopening of school from 01 June 2020. This information is relevant to the parents of children who are returning to school, but it is important that all parents read it so you know what our school and our systems will look like when your child returns to school.

From 01 June, we will be open to children in **Reception and Year 1**, and those children identified as being a **priority group** (those who have a social worker, an EHCP or parents who are critical workers). We will not be open to Nursery children.

The children who are returning to school on 01 June will be returning to a very different place. In the first instance, the children will work in one group. We will be offering full days to children in Reception and Year 1 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. School will not be open to these children on Fridays. We will be offering full days to children identified as being a **priority group** from Monday to Friday each week. School will be open to these children on Fridays.

Deep cleaning will take place throughout the week. The areas used by the smaller group of pupils who attend on Friday will be thoroughly cleaned after the close of school. On Fridays, staff will reflect on the learning opportunities provided throughout the week and plan for the week ahead. This includes learning for children at school and children who will be accessing learning at home via School360 or Tapestry.

What will it mean for children who are attending school?

Dress code

- Children should arrive at school wearing **practical clothes**, including **trainers** or shoes which they can run around in comfortably. They do not need to wear school uniform.
- Children must wear a **full set of washed, clean clothes every day**.
- Children should bring a **sun hat** and parents should apply **sunscreen** to children before they leave the house on sunny days. We will not be able to do this at school.

Food and drink

- A **packed lunch and a drink** will be provided free of charge to all children. Children should not bring in a packed lunch from home.
- We will provide water throughout the day in a **brand new water bottle**. It will stay in school and be washed here ready for the next day. Children should not bring in water bottles from home.

School bags and PE kit

- Children should not bring in anything from home.
- Children will be doing lots of socially distanced physical activity but they do not need to bring their PE kit to change in to.

Learning resources

- Reading books will be used with children in school but they will not be sent home.
- We will not be sending home any other resources.
- We will provide each pupil with a **pupil pack or tray** that contains the equipment that will only be used and touched by them. These will be cleaned at the end of the day.
- When any other equipment is used it will then need to be cleaned before other children use it.

Dropping off and collection arrangements

The arrangements for dropping off and collecting children have been revised. The **revised policy for drop off and collection** is attached to this letter.

Planning and delivering learning

Children will do the same work at school as is being sent home via remote learning.

Booking a place for your child at school

We have organised the children in to one group of children starting on Monday 01 June. Parents of these children responded to our survey and place has been booked for these children.

If your child is in Reception or Year 1, or if your child is in the priority group and you would like them to start attending school after 01 June, you must inform us in writing, giving 5 days' notice of your request.

We will consider your request but I must stress that we cannot arrange extra staff and reorganise the groups that we already have running in school without completing additional risk assessments. Children in the priority group will be allocated a place before other children.

Health and safety

The hall and communal areas have been deep cleaned. They are set up to comply with social distancing and limit the risk of the spread of infection.

Children should not wear face masks.

PPE will be worn by staff to provide intimate care if required and in the event of a child or adult showing symptoms of Covid-19 while at school.

We have put many measures in place to reduce the risk of the spread of infection in school. However, these will only be effective if **social distancing rules are being adhered to outside of school** and if **children who develop Covid-19 symptoms, or who have been in contact with anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms, do not attend school**.

What happens if a child or adult shows symptoms of Covid-19?

We have used government and Public Health England guidance to write a **procedure to deal with suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19**. The procedure is attached to this letter.

What happens if a parent or child refuses to comply with our policies and procedures?

Our top priority is to keep our children and our staff safe. Although we have great confidence in the fact that parents and children will adapt to and comply with all of the measures we have put in place, it is only right to be clear about our expectations.

We are revising our **behaviour and discipline policy** to clearly set out our expectations. This will be sent out separately. We have produced a **revised home school agreement** that sets out what we expect of children and parents. The **revised home school agreement** is attached to this letter.

All parents who want their child to attend school will be required to sign this document. Ultimately, we reserve the right to both offer and withdraw places in school to any child. Should we reach the stage where the behaviour of a child or parent is in any way compromising our ability to keep our children and our staff safe, their place will be withdrawn for either a fixed period or permanently.

What will it mean for children who are not attending school?

Teachers will continue to provide remote learning via **Tapestry** or **School360**. Many of you are engaging with these platforms regularly and are clearly working really hard to support your child to make progress and prevent them from falling behind.

I cannot stress enough the **importance of engaging with remote learning**. We do not expect you to complete every activity or post work every day. However, we do expect children to be doing some form of work every day and for you to engage with these systems. This will really support your child to make progress and prevent them from falling behind.

We are now in our seventh week of school being closed and some families have still not even logged on to School360 or Tapestry. We are very happy to help if you need help but we cannot help you if you haven't logged on. Please contact class teachers directly using these addresses-

- anna.bell1@school360.co.uk
- amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk
- pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk
- sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk
- hannah.askew@school360.co.uk

Wider phased reopening for Years 2, 3 and 4

We are continuing to discuss and plan for the next stage of the phased reopening of school. The government has shared its ambition for all other primary aged children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible. We will be circulating a survey to parents of all children in Years 2, 3 and 4 in the coming weeks to gather your thoughts about your child returning to school.

Our top priority is to keep our children and our staff safe. We will do everything that we can to reduce the risks to you and your child by attending school.

Please be assured that the overriding factor in our decision making is always the safety of the children and the staff who are responsible for them. If you are concerned about your child's safety or welfare, please contact us immediately.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Chappell
Headteacher

Steph Hall
Chair of governors

Attachments

- revised policy for drop off and collection;
- revised home school agreement;
- procedures to deal with suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19.

To follow-

- behaviour and discipline policy.