



South Gosforth First School

'Roots to grow and wings to fly'

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed today that one of our pupils in Year 3 has tested positive for COVID-19. After following advice from the Newcastle Health Protection Team, as well as Public Health England, we have sent home all of the pupils and staff from this Year 3 bubble group to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from when the child first had symptoms, which means that our Year 3 children and staff will not be back in school until Wednesday 7th October.

Whilst this is extremely disappointing, upsetting and frustrating for our whole school community, in particular our children and families in Year 3, we have taken all of the measures that we can to ensure that the impact of this temporary bubble closure is minimised as much as possible. We are providing home learning for all of our pupils in Year 3 next week, including daily teaching videos and we are reviewing our whole school risk assessment processes all the time in order to ensure that things are as safe as possible (please note that there will be an update to the whole school risk assessment going on to the school website next week – I will ensure to let everyone know when this is available.)

In the meantime, I would ask that all of our families remain vigilant and look out for any symptoms of COVID-19 in members of your household. The most common symptoms are:

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

If your child or anyone else in your household develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should continue to remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. If these symptoms develop, then all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise. If any of your family do develop symptoms, please do let us know either via emailing us at admin@southgosforth.newcastle.sch.uk or by calling school on 0191 2853453.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website at: nhs.uk/coronavirus

There are things that we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. These things include:

- washing hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- washing your hands as soon as you get home
- covering mouths and noses with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing
- putting used tissues in the bin immediately and washing hands immediately afterwards

This correspondence is available in audio, Braille or large print if required. Please contact us to arrange this.

I am sure that I can speak on behalf of our whole school community when I say that we hope that all of our Year 3 pupils and families stay safe and as well as possible during this time and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school a week on Wednesday.

Timetables

All classes across school are now well underway with establishing where the children are and staff are busy delivering high quality teaching to start addressing some of the 'learning gaps' and lost learning time which our children experienced over lockdown.

In order to do this, we have devised an altered timetable which prioritises the core elements within our curriculum. This includes additional phonics sessions each day for our children in Key Stage 1, as well as additional Maths sessions every week across school, daily focussed handwriting sessions, extended opportunities for Reading and a shift in focus in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar teaching. We are obviously still delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, however, we feel that it is important to place a focus upon these key skills so that our pupils are able to apply them across our whole curriculum.

Seesaw

I am aware that there have been a number of issues for our families accessing their child's new Seesaw accounts. Whilst Seesaw is a brilliant platform to deliver learning online, it is notoriously difficult to set up and we are having a few teething problems at the moment. I can assure all of our parents and carers that these issues will be fully rectified on Monday and we will be ready to go with all of the new logins. My sincere apologies for any inconvenience which this has caused.

Wishing every single one of our school family a wonderful and restful weekend.

Best wishes

Mr Adams

Head Teacher