



# Shanklea Primary School

Telephone : 01670 715205

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Website: [www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk)

Nairn Road, Parkside Chase, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 1RQ

Headteacher – Mrs Helen Brown  
B.Ed(Primary)Hons, Dip.(Humanities) NPQH

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Learning Update



At Shanklea we constantly review our practice to ensure we are delivering the best education possible. This is true now more than ever. We are currently reviewing our remote learning based upon feedback from parents, carers, pupils and staff. As you will appreciate every family is experiencing life at the moment in their own unique way and their needs for remote learning differ too. Some families find early in the day is the best time for them, other the evenings and others the weekends. Whatever works for you and your family situation, we know how challenging life is for everyone and want to say thank you for all the families who are working hard to support the remote learning.

Currently all pupils, in school or at home, are following a timetable of learning which links to online software packages and learning. Over the next few weeks, you will see staff introducing some new teaching and learning ideas which research shows are effective ways to support our families at home. These will include some of the following:

- short recordings made by the teacher to support a particular aspect of the lesson,
- oral feedback given through the software packages such as Purple Mash,
- resources produced by our staff for our pupils
- virtual themed assemblies



Staff will also continue to keep regular email or phone communication with parents and carers.

We are also in the process of setting up systems where pupils at home will be invited to join a **“Weekly Wellbeing Chat”** with their teacher and other pupils at home, to allow them to share their experiences and have a bit of fun too! These will be in place immediately after the half term. More information will follow. We hope that hearing their teachers’ voices will encourage our pupils and provide the motivation to keep going that little bit longer.

Could families please complete and return the **Home Learning Questionnaire** if you haven’t already, even if your child is currently coming into school.

Please do not forget that, whilst we are unable to open our doors to all our pupils at present, we are very much still here to support all our pupils and if you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact us and we will do whatever we can to help. We thank you again for your continued support.

## This Week’s Learning

### EYFS:

This week in Reception we have been exploring the book **“Aliens love underpants.”** Our activities have been linked to the book, looking at patterns and writing simple sentences describing ourselves to an alien! We have seen some very creative spaceships both at home and in school. Well done everyone.

### Key Stage 1:

A huge well done to all of the home schoolers in Key Stage 1 who have been producing some excellent work so far this half term. Mrs Downes and Mrs Shires have been blown away with the high-quality work that has been handed in especially with our twist on the **Little Red Riding Hood** stories and the letter writing as **Florence Nightingale**. Mrs Barron





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and Miss Spence have been particularly impressed with the story planning linked to '**The Enormous Turnip**' and the stories that were written from that were truly amazing. A huge well done to everyone who is working at home and at school and a big thank you to all the families who are helping to teach and support their children. We really do appreciate all that you are doing to help us during this current lockdown.

## Lower Key Stage 2:

We have been incredibly impressed by the remote learning that has been going on. Year 4 children particularly enjoyed the science experiment creating static electricity using a balloon and it was lovely to see all the pictures of the children's '**mad scientist hair-dos**' and balloons stuck to the wall!

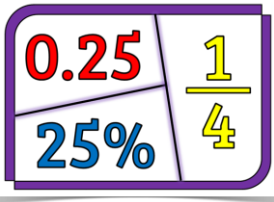


The Year 3 children have continued to impress us with their hard work and it has been fantastic to see some of the high-quality pieces of work produced! We have been investigating fractions this week; starting with halves and quarters, before moving onto some trickier fractions of amounts. Children have consistently improved their high scores on **TimesTable Rockstars** and have also been enjoying this week's book "**Around the World in 80 Minutes,**" and we have seen lots of children achieving great scores on their Purple Mash chapter quizzes!

The pupils (and their families) have been working really hard and we have loved seeing the work they have returned to us. Please continue to send us work back on the Google Classroom or by sending us photos via email as we love to see what you are all doing! We look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we can!

## Upper Key Stage 2:

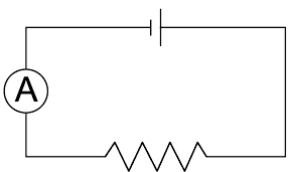
Years 5 and 6 have worked extremely hard this week, and it has been great to see them produce some brilliant pieces of work, both in school and at home. They have been expanding their understanding of equivalent fractions and fraction calculations, including multiplying fractions in Year 6 which they have realized sounds a lot harder than it actually is.



We have had the highest scores so far on **MyMaths** and the participation from home has been amazing! We have also been enjoying some good books: '**The haunting of Rose Cottage**' in Year 6 which has inspired us to have a go at writing our own ghost stories – and '**The Cyber Crime Files**' in Year 5 where they have come up with some fantastic theories as to why they think Neville Court is up to no good!

We have also been learning about electricity in Year 6 Science and despite not having access to the usual electricity kits, our home learners have used a range of videos and resources to produce some excellent work on Purple Mash using circuit symbols to draw diagrams. Our Year 5 Scientists have been learning about space and the solar system and there have been some amazing pieces of work handed in, with children going above and beyond by creating their own projects at home.

It is brilliant to see everyone giving their all and working so hard whether in school or at home. Please keep up the good work and we look forward to having everyone back in sometime soon!





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## February Half-Term

We have been advised that schools will be closed as usual over the February half-term holidays and are **not** expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

Families receiving Free School Meal vouchers will get them from the Huggg platform during half term and then they will resume with Edenred after half term.



## Children's Mental Health Week 2021 - 1-7 February 2021

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Express Yourself**. We have compiled a separate letter with more information on this very important topic which will be sent to families with this newsletter.

Children at home and at school are encouraged to **dress to impress on Monday** and to **wear an item of clothing inside out on Wednesday**. We'd love to see your fabulous photos either expressing yourself or wearing clothes inside out. We intend to create a whole school Shanklea collage of everyone "together." We are still waiting for a few people to complete the **Image Consent Form** that was emailed to all families. We will send reminders shortly as it is very important that we have this information.



## Parents and Carers – What you need to know as lockdown continues

Thank you to all our Shanklea parents and carers for their support, understanding and cooperation during these difficult "Covid times."

We continue to operate with additional hygiene and infection control measures which are designed to reduce the risks of the virus spreading through our school. If your child is in school, they are part of a 'bubble' which is limited to a small group of children.

We encourage pupils to socially distance where possible and maintain hand hygiene measures. Lots of additional measures are in place including extra cleaning and staggered start and end times of the school day for different classes.

We ask that **ALL** adults entering the school site for any reason, to please wear a face covering and remember to socially distance from other households. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our thanks go out to all of you who always show consideration to others by following the guidance and wearing a mask.

However, there have been numerous concerns expressed over the lack of social distancing from a number of parents/carers around the school gates and on the cycle path that runs alongside our school.

COVID cases are relatively high in Cramlington at present so it is **vital we all follow guidance to stay safe**.

Please make sure that you:

# SAFETY MATTERS





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- Maintain social distancing where possible. Please be patient and wait courteously for a space to be available rather than coming too close to others.
- Do not wait on or close to the cycle path (this prevents others from being able to social distance as they have to squeeze past or walk on the road). Please note that families need to be vigilant on the cycle paths as there have been a number of incidents with cyclists travelling fast close to school.
- Do not gather near the gates.

There is plenty of space on the school yard to enable correct social distancing to be maintained so please enter the yard and space yourselves out while you wait for your child's start or finish time.

Thank you for your continued support – stay safe.

## Attending School during Lockdown

As lockdown continues, schools have experienced an increase in demand for school places; partly due to an expansion of the critical worker list; and the definition of vulnerable children entitled to a space, which now includes 'those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)'.

The result is that schools are becoming much busier than during the last lockdown.

This is causing concern among staff and parents, with many fearing the implications on the fight against the virus if so many children are still in school.

It is **extremely important** that places are only taken by those who genuinely need them and not taken up needlessly. We absolutely see the need for our school to provide education in a secure setting for those children who need it, however families sending children into school when they don't need to, is a concern. **Government advice is that children should be home schooled wherever possible.**

**Everyone should consider carefully their own circumstances and be able to genuinely say they are doing the right thing, as difficult as that may be.**

## Online Safety

Below are some reminders of useful websites which can help you keep your children safe online. Remember, good communication with your child about what they do online is key to helping keep them safe.

**National Online Safety - <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>**

This is full of up-to-date information about the latest games and apps as well as much more. They regularly produce guides for parents with clear information about risks and advantages of new online games and apps.



**You should only send your child to school on Monday if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response.**

If you are able to keep your child at home, you should.





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The school has a subscription which allows you to access all materials.

**Common Sense Media** - <https://www.common Sense Media.org/>

Common Sense Media is a really useful website containing reviews and information about films, games, apps and more. Use it to find out about age restrictions, content advice and for reviews by parents and children.

**CEOP** - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

If you are concerned about anything you see online, you should report it using the link above.

**StayWise** - <https://staywise.co.uk/>

This is a free learning platform which brings together the educational resources of emergency services and safety charities into one place, making it easy for you to access free resources on a range of safety topics. It is designed to help parents and carers, by providing FREE videos, and activity sheets linked to the national curriculum and approved by emergency services and safety charities. Everything from games, videos, and interesting information from emergency services and all linked to the national curriculum – [www.staywise.co.uk](http://www.staywise.co.uk) #SavingLivesThroughEducation

## Parent/Carer Feedback

We want to share with you a few of the lovely testimonials we have received from families over the lockdown period. We've removed any names to ensure privacy. It has been a challenging time for everyone and we would like to give a **big thank you** to all who have taken the time to send comments and feedback. It is heart-warming for our staff and the comments really do epitomise what we strive for through our school vision - achievement through caring.



*'Can I also say a huge thank you for the online learning activities. They have been brilliant. I have found the weekly plan very useful and the activities have been both varied and challenging. My child has really enjoyed her day and the tasks have been really good for me to do with her whilst juggling my work too. I am sure a lot of thought has gone into the work set and it is clear that you know your pupils so well.*

*We have also accessed Oxford Owl which is amazing!!'.*

*'Many thanks again and stay safe.'*

*'Thank you for getting in touch and that's lovely to hear that you're happy with how my son is getting on with his work.*

*We really appreciate all that you're doing sending all the lessons and giving feedback. It can't be easy having to sort everything out. We are very grateful so thanks again'.*

## Free School Meal Vouchers

Staff have worked hard to progress the National Free School Meals Voucher Scheme with DfE and Edenred. To receive these vouchers the child must be eligible for means tested Free School Meals. This is not the same as Universal Infant Free School Meals for children in Reception to Year 2.

You can check the eligibility criteria and apply for Free School Meals on the Northumberland County Council





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(NCC) website at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>

## Lockdown Lunches and Meal Plans

Change4Life have created recipes and shopping lists for families which can be used to create lunches for around £15 each week. More information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas>



## Shanklea Home and Classroom Superstars

Congratulations to the **Shanklea Stars** of last week:

<b>William C</b>	<b>Evie R</b>	<b>Lucy H</b>	<b>Jake O'B</b>	<b>Lydia T</b>	<b>Scarlett- Rose P</b>
<b>Oona S</b>	<b>Lily S</b>	<b>Charlie P</b>	<b>Lewis N</b>		
<b>Joey B</b>	<b>Emme S</b>	<b>William B</b>	<b>Lewis M</b>	<b>Bailey L</b>	
<b>Dylan C</b>	<b>Chloe M</b>	<b>Harry C</b>	<b>Rosie S</b>	<b>Oliver S</b>	<b>Taylor W</b>
<b>Harry M</b>	<b>Cole R</b>	<b>Isabelle A</b>	<b>Libby B</b>		
<b>Ryan M</b>	<b>Lori N</b>	<b>Mya H</b>	<b>Niamh M</b>		

**You are all amazing – Well done**

Thank you all for your continuing support as we work together to achieve the best possible outcomes and experiences for all our children.

Mrs H Brown  
Head Teacher

