



Shanklea Primary School

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

Telephone : 01670 715205

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Website: www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

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

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Newsletter



As you know, on Monday 4th January 2021, the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This lockdown has now come into effect.

School leaders and staff worked tirelessly last week to put the necessary arrangements in place to ensure the safety and best possible outcomes for everyone in OUR school. The health, wellbeing and safety of Shanklea students, teaching and support staff remains our number one priority.

The Government have said:

"Our teaching staff have worked incredibly hard right throughout this pandemic to ensure that pupils continue with their education, either in school or online.

Our schools also have robust risk assessments and health and safety measures in place and have done absolutely everything in their power to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. These are very challenging times for everyone, and some difficult decisions have to be made."

As part of this announcement, it was made clear that vulnerable children and children of critical workers would be able to attend school if needed.

At Shanklea, we really want to accommodate every child, but sadly this just isn't possible in the light of the new COVID-19 regulations. We are currently operating socially distanced teaching and learning, with enhanced safety procedures and reduced staffing capacity due to sickness and isolation requirements.

The latest Government guidance published on 7th January 2021 says: *'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'*.

To try and support as many pupils and parents as possible, we are asking critical workers to think very carefully before sending your child to school. If you are able to keep your children at home, then please do so.

We appreciate this is difficult and the work you do is critical to the Coronavirus response, however, as we reach capacity, we have been advised to prioritise the following vulnerable children before the children of critical workers:

- Children with a Child Protection Plan, Looked-After Children and children with Education,





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Health and Care Plans.

- Children previously on a Child Protection Plan or previously Looked-After children.
- Those with a special guardianship order.
- Children with a Child in Need Plan.

This does not mean there isn't a place for your child if you are a critical worker but please help us by only requesting a place if you really need it.

The current guidance for children who are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable is not to attend their school setting and to remain at home as much as possible. If your child is within this category, please liaise with us and we will continue to support you.

We have learnt that most schools will now be moving to remote learning for the majority of pupils until February half-term.

Northumberland County Council have said:

"We have every confidence in our headteachers and governing bodies to make the right decisions for their school community and will of course support any Northumberland school that feels unable to open due to their local risk assessment and staff availability.

We would ask that parents check their child's school's website for the latest information and any updates relating to closures. Schools will also be contacting parents in their usual way if they are to remain closed and move to online learning."

All children not attending school will be supported to remain at home through remote learning. Parents/carers should expect a sliding scale of contact time for pupils from two hours for very young pupils up to four hours for older pupils. This remote learning teaching will vary for each year group / key stage due to reduced staffing capacity from sickness and isolation requirements and the number of teachers teaching in school as opposed to working from home.

As with previous lockdowns, in addition to online pre-recorded lessons we will also be e-mailing work to home and uploading weekly learning plans to our school website. Our remote learning policy may also be found on our website.

Home Learning & Remote Learning – Google Classroom

Pupils can now access their home learning in Google Classroom – a digital learning platform created by Google.

Remote learning resources, pre-recorded videos and interactive teaching will also be





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accessible through Google Classroom. This will ensure that all children are given the opportunity to continue learning remotely, at home.

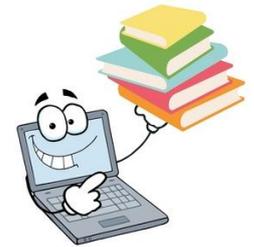
All learning will be set by school staff through the platform and pupils can complete their learning and submit it online.

Home learning assignments will be set weekly, on Mondays and should be submitted by the deadline indicated.

Parents and carers should check the platform daily to see if any new learning has been set for your child. Some pieces of learning will have a deadline for submission; children should be encouraged to complete the learning by the given dates.

We understand that parents and carers may be concerned about the amount of screen time children are being exposed to already. If preferred, assignments can be completed on paper and then a photo or scan of the learning can be submitted on Google Classroom.

If you require further support, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Teachers' email addresses are listed on the school website at www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk



Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. We are sending a short home learning guide with this newsletter. This has tips on many potential issues such as creating a safe learning environment, adhering to school policies and making sure the appropriate systems and communication channels are in place so that educators, parents and carers get the most out of their remote education experience. We hope you find it helpful.

Parental Feedback

We are so grateful for all the feedback we have received from parents and carers, during December 2020 and January 2021. We are so thankful to the many families who have taken the time to say 'thank you' for the support that we have been offering their children during this unprecedented time. Some examples are below:

- ✓ *A huge thank you to all the teachers and support staff who have gone above and beyond*
- ✓ *Just wanted to extend our thanks and gratitude to yourself and your staff.*





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- ✓ *I imagine this week has been one never known for your team. To turn around new systems so quickly, to pull a remote learning plan together alongside an in-school plan following Christmas as well as planning for a term in school is nothing short of amazing.*
- ✓ *Our education minister clearly had alternative views of schools when he spoke in parliament this week urging parents to contact Ofsted if they are unhappy - I just wanted to let you know that we are most certainly very happy and entirely appreciative of everything you have all done.*
- ✓ *I hope you all have a relaxing weekend and that school is back to normal as soon as possible.*
- ✓ *I just wanted to feedback my appreciation for the terrific effort made by one and all to roll-out the home learning.*
- ✓ *Hats off to you and all the staff, really impressed*
- ✓ *I just wanted to take the time to thank everyone up who has made online remote learning a possibility.*
- ✓ *From a parent's perspective this week has been co-ordinated really well, thank you and well done to you and the team.*
- ✓ *I would just like to say that I think you are all doing an absolutely fantastic job with all these new challenges that have arisen in the last few days and the past year really. The communication has been excellent and the organisation of the School as a whole has really impressed me.*
- ✓ *What you have all pulled together with so little notice is just outstanding and is a credit to you all. Thank you so much for all your hard work, dedication and effort. It is very much appreciated and has not gone unnoticed.*
- ✓ *All the chatter I've heard has been very positive regards how organised and approachable all the staff have been and how flexible too.*
- ✓ *Having school and teachers facilitating myself and partner is greatly appreciated by us and*





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others. Our daughter absolutely loves coming to school despite National Lockdown and is so happy.

- ✓ *I wanted to email to say how well today has gone with the virtual lessons and to just say a big thank you to you all as I can only imagine how hard it has been pulling everything together.*

Thank you all so much for your continued support. It means so much to all our staff in these very challenging times.

Shanklea's Neighbourhood Hero

Congratulations to **Mr Allan** who has been named as Cramlington's first **Neighbourhood Hero** by Cramlington Town Council. You can read their full article on their website at <https://www.cramlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk/news/>



A singing caretaker is the first person to be recognised by Cramlington Town Council as a 'Neighbourhood Hero'.

Peter Allan is the caretaker at Shanklea Primary School and during the pandemic he has worked hard to ensure the school is always ready to welcome the children of key workers. But his talents as a singer have meant Peter has been keeping up the spirits of his local community as well.

Shanklea Primary teacher Sharon Shires, who nominated Peter as a Neighbourhood Hero, said: "During this pandemic Peter has been one of those people for whom nothing is too much trouble and he is always smiling, singing or making people laugh, even though his family has suffered bereavements during this time. He is definitely a Neighbourhood Hero!"

Peter, 46, said he was surprised and delighted by the nomination. He added: "I enjoy making people laugh and I'm passionate about my music.

During the first lockdown I wrote a song called 'Last Night Down The Pub' which was played on local radio and helped me raise money for Cancer Research. In times like this, the more I can make people smile the better! "





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Shanklea Stars of Last Term



Congratulations to the following children who were named as the Shanklea Superstars of last term by their teachers.



Reception	Jemima R	Sophie B	Reece J
Years 1 and 2	Charlie P	Jessica S	Mollie M Kenji K Sean J Hollie C
Year 3	Maggie H	Sam B	Charlie B Katie B
Year 4	Lewis G	Zeva Z	Oliver S Taylor W Olivia J
Year 5	Jacob T	Gabriella C	Ewan M Anna S
Year 6	Maya J	Joseph C	Sophie K Dexter H

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for everyone, particularly critical workers, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, patience and understanding at this time.

Please keep in touch with us if you have any concerns – we are still here to help.

Mrs H Brown
 Head Teacher

