



Explore, Learn and Grow Together

Brewery Road  
Wooler  
Northumberland  
NE71 6QF

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the start of the summer term (hopefully as the term progresses we will be able to do more and more of our 'usual' summer activities across both of our schools). It has been great to see all of the children happy and busy back in school again this week. Even though there has been some easing of COVID restrictions in our own lives all of the COVID secure procedures that we have been operating over the last few months continue to be in place here in school. These include enhanced hygiene routines, bubble groupings, group and individual social distancing, staggered start/finish times and break/lunchtimes, minimising visitors (including parents and carers) here on site and the use of face coverings. We are all well used to these procedures here in school but please continue to reinforce these expectations with your children until we are allowed to start to relax them (this will hopefully be in the coming weeks but these systems may need to be in place throughout the term ahead).

#### **Key reminders of our COVID procedures:**

1. Follow the rules and systems for dropping off and collecting children (systems remain the same from last term). It is vital that everyone is in the right place at the right time to enable us to get children in and out of school safely each day. Everyone who needs to come onto the school site will be expected to follow the rules and directions from staff – remember there will be no vehicular access to the school grounds apart from school transport providers and only one parent/carer is permitted on site when dropping off/collecting younger children.

**Please note start times below as we have a number of children arriving too early in the morning which causes significant difficulty for teachers who are here in school preparing for the day ahead:**

- **Wooller First School pupils are to arrive between 8.45am and 9am and enter classrooms directly via individual classroom doors.**
  - **Glendale Middle school pupils are to arrive between 8.55am and 9am and assemble in their designated points around the school.**
2. Everyone is to wash their hands as they leave the house to come to school in the mornings.
  3. Face coverings – there are no changes to expectations for face coverings as we start the term – please see further information below.
  4. Twice weekly rapid lateral flow testing for all staff and for pupils in Yr7 & yr8 will continue (more test boxes will be sent home for our older pupils in the week commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April).
  5. Do not send children into school if they are ill or displaying symptoms of coronavirus.

#### **Face Coverings**

There are no wider changes to the expectations regarding face coverings for children, parents and staff at school that we operated last term, I have noted these again below:

- Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will be expected to wear a face covering as they arrive and depart from school.
- All Glendale pupils will be expected to wear a face covering as they arrive and depart from school and also when in communal areas of the school as we did last term. Children in Year 7 & Year 8 will also wear their face coverings in classrooms.
- All staff across our settings will use a face covering when on the school site except when they are teaching in classrooms (staff will also wear face coverings when teaching Yr7 & Yr8 classes).
- Parents and carers must wear a face covering at all times when on the school site (medical exceptions are permitted).
- All children using school transport to wear a face covering as we did last term.

The full government guidance issued to schools which contains the details of how schools should now be working is on our school websites in the COVID information section – it is quite lengthy but does give lots of information on how we will be operating in the coming weeks.

### **Information from Class Teachers & Form Tutors**

As usual at the start of term our Class teachers and Form tutors will share class/form specific information (timetables etc.) with parents and carers electronically. From 26<sup>th</sup> April we will also be sending home pupil progress reports as we did earlier in the year. These will be followed by individual phone call appointments for all parents & carers across the schools from Year 1 to Year 8. Further information will follow shortly with more details about this activity.

### **Events and activities this term**

As you may have seen in the press recently schools are now permitted to again undertake day trips/visits and from 17<sup>th</sup> May (at the earliest) domestic residential visits. Staff have been busy already planning and organising curriculum linked educational visits for the term ahead and we have growing confidence that the children we will be able to finally enjoy their Robinwood (Yr4 & Yr5) and Dalguise (Yr7 & Yr8) residential visits. We have also been looking in greater detail at activity day trip options for our Yr6 who are not able to take advantage of our annual trip to York this year (further info to follow on these over the next week or so). We have also identified dates for sports days, the middle school swimming gala, curriculum day trips, transition day etc. and will update families as we progress through the term ahead.

### **Final bits and bobs.**

With the wider opening of non-essential shops and business we will be expecting children and families to be able to get all children back into school uniform over the next few weeks. We have been relaxed about uniform and understanding of the difficulties facing families in being able to get appropriate clothes and shoes for school over the periods of lockdown. However we do now expect a return to our normal standards as soon as possible. With uniform in mind we have class photographs taking place on Tuesday next week (20<sup>th</sup> April 2021). Tuesday is the best day of the week for this event as we have no swimming or forest school on Tuesdays across our schools. Our Year 5 & Year 6 groups have P.E. on Tuesday afternoons so will need to come to school in uniform with their P.E. kits in their bags and we will facilitate changing appropriately in the gym in groups over lunchtime after their photographs have been done. We are planning to get out a quick electronic parent/carer survey in the weeks ahead to capture your feedback on key aspects of how the schools have operated over this most exceptional time – your feedback is important as we continue to address the challenges resulting from the pandemic and plan for how we can best support all children moving forwards.

As we did across the autumn and spring terms we will be keeping all aspects of our systems under constant review to ensure that everyone is feeling safe, happy and ready to learn. We are now fully into our recovery curriculum having adapted teaching and learning plans in response to the periods of lockdown and assessments completed in the three weeks before Easter. We are using a blend of online 1:1 tutoring, additional individual & group face-to-face interventions and from this week two additional teachers are joining us (Miss Turnbull & Miss Malthouse) working with classes and groups in both schools to support learning and accelerate academic progress. Fitting all of this activity successfully into our school day is challenging so please reinforce with your children the importance engaging positively and squeezing all that they can from these learning opportunities.

Keep safe and thank you all in advance for your support and cooperation this term.

M.Deane-Hall

Executive Headteacher