

13.1.21

Dear Parents

Welcome back to my weekly update letter!

The last two weeks have been extremely busy as we settle into new routines and remote learning.

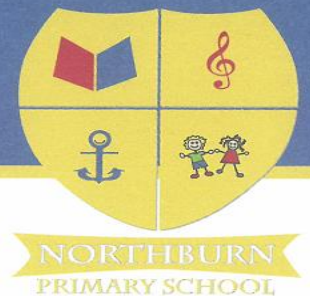
Over 40% of our pupils are attending school. I feel the school is now at capacity and admitting more children could compromise safety. I set numbers based on a 1m distance between children in class. This is outlined in my risk assessment. There are still children I have not been able to accommodate. If your child can safely work at home and you no longer need a place, please let us know. The Government's guidance makes clear that even if you are a key worker, if your child can be looked after at home, they should be.

All staff are in so that we can staff each class bubble of children. This means teachers are teaching quite a lot of children in school, whilst at the same time, supporting children who are learning remotely at home. This is quite a challenge and I appreciate your understanding. I am very grateful to staff who are working long hours to achieve this. I imagine also that many of you are completely overwhelmed with the impossible task of home schooling and working from home. Some of you are worrying that you are not doing enough. You are! If it were possible for you to juggle everything, there would be no need for teachers! Do what you can and we will address gaps in learning when we all get back to just doing what we all should be doing.

I am getting to grips with my new blog and posting messages when I can. I have had a fantastic response from your children and I have absolutely loved reading the comments they leave. Although I am improving, I do not think I will be giving up the day job and pursuing a career in presenting.

Support with IT for remote learning.

Please let me know if your child does not have a suitable device on which they can access and engage with remote learning resources. I have been informed that your child may be able to access remote learning from Xbox and PlayStation devices using the instructions below:



Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
2. Go to my games and apps.
3. Find and select Microsoft Edge.
4. Navigate to your online learning platform.

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (WWW with dots around it).
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
4. Go to applications and you will find the internet browser.
5. Navigate to your online learning platform and log in as usual.

Schools and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who meet **all three** of these criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

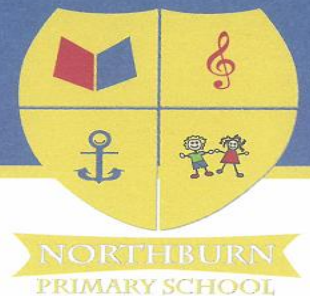
- EE
- O2
- Sky Mobile
- SMARTY
- Tesco Mobile
- Three
- Virgin Mobile
- Vodafone

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

If your circumstances mean that you would be entitled, please let me know by emailing:

Clare.scott@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

In your correspondence, please tell me the name of your child and their class.



Printed worksheets

If you have requested printed copies of worksheets and are able to pick them up from school that would help us enormously.

Reception and KS1 reading books

We are providing reading books from our Read Write Inc. scheme. Your child's reading wallet will be available to collect from school each **Wednesday**. **Please can you return the book to us on the following Monday**. There will be a box in the entrance for you to leave it. Please can you return it in the folder provided. If you will have difficulty collecting and returning books, please let us know and we will see if we can help.

All Key Stage 2 pupils have access to reading material on MyOn.

Year 5 and Year 6 STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

Newcastle University have some lectures available for children in Year 5 & 6 to access. This month, they are delighted to bring you the:

[Holmes Memorial Lectures for 10- to 14-year olds](#), on the theme of women in STEM.

Click on the link above to find out what's on offer.

Primary SATs for KS1 and KS2

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has confirmed that they will not be proceeding with SATs (Key Stage 1 and 2) or Phonics Screening Checks for Year 1 this year.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Clare Scott