

Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter – January 27th 2021



What it means when a bubble 'goes down'

Children who are currently attending school are grouped into 'bubbles'. These are fixed groups of children accessing the key worker and vulnerable family provision. We had managed not to send home any children until mid-January, so in a sense it was a shock when the positive case arose last week.

If a bubble goes down, this means that the particular group of children in school – and the staff working with them – need to self-isolate because there has been a positive COVID case in school and Public Health advises us of the children and staff who are required to isolate.

On this occasion, the 'bubble' remains closed to ALL for 10 days – Public Health guide us as to the safe return date for all. This means that although you may have a child that is on our key worker register, and although they may not have been in school that particular day, **they also** cannot access the provision as the whole bubble is closed. We appreciate that this is short notice to parents, but it depends on when we are informed of a positive test. We are extremely lucky not to have been affected by a positive case until now.

If a bubble goes down, you will receive firstly a text and then a letter via email stating the days which your child is required to self-isolate. A second letter is emailed to all other families informing them that there is a positive case in school and that a risk assessment has been undertaken and their child/ren are not required to isolate. I hope that this clarifies the position on bubble closures. Please contact us if you have any further questions.

Staff testing



Yesterday we started carrying out whole staff self-testing at home. Staff will test themselves twice weekly with a rapid flow COVID test as requested by the DFE. Families will need to be mindful of the possible short-notice of bubbles closing. If there is a positive COVID test from a member of staff, firstly we risk assess which bubbles and staff that it affects, (directed & guided by Public Health) and affected families will be informed by text first, then letter via email.

Unfortunately due to the time that staff have to take their test in the morning, if a positive case arises, parents will not be able to be informed **until 8.10am approximately**. I would suggest that all families try to have a back-up plan for childcare should this situation arise again. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Google Classroom

Huge thanks to all of our families for helping our children to access remote learning at home. We have 95% of our children accessing Google Classroom, which is brilliant! It also ensures that our children are still making progress in their learning and reading. Please contact the school office if you have ANY queries or questions. We are here to help and support.

What support are we offering?

These are some of the ways in which we are providing support to families supporting children with remote learning:

- We are here to speak to if you have a question or need support. Please contact the office on 0191 3009190.
- The children are able to message their class teacher via Google Classroom if they need to
- Twice weekly we have a teacher phoning home if your child has sent a message, if a parent has sent a message or question, OR if your child is not completing their work.
- We are able to support if you have an issue with access to devices OR if you have an issue with your broadband - I am able to access additional broadband through your mobile network.



Frequently asked questions

Q. Can you tell when a child or parent has messaged you?

A. This is a flaw of Google Classroom, it is frustrating that there is no 'alert' when messages are left. There is no way around it except just having to back track through

comments and pieces of work.

Q. Why is Google Classroom organised in date/day chronological order and not subjects?

A. Because this is more user friendly for the children, to see the tasks for the day as a whole.

Q. Should it be taking my child as long to copy work out from the screen activities and do we need to print out anything?

A. We don't ask that the children copy the question, or from the Google Classroom task on screen. The children are required only to record the answers in their exercise books. There should be no printing out of worksheets – we were aware of this from the first lock down, and have sent exercise books home to each child to avoid the need to print work.

Q. My child cannot get through the amount of work provided?

A. The amount of work provided is in line with guidance from the DFE. It is also what we expect the children to get through in any normal day at school. Please see the guide times beside each piece of work the teachers put onto Google Classroom. This is how long it should take your child to complete the activity.

Q. I missed the live shared reading session. Can an alert be sent?

A. The teachers put a copy of the shared reading time slots on their google classroom at the end of the week for the next week. Please make sure that you make a note of your child's time slot as alerts cannot be sent unfortunately.



Singing for Memories

We will be taking part in a singing project, invited by the Newcastle Eagles Community Foundation. The project is a new one, and works to improve the mental and physical health of people across the population in Northumberland and North Tyneside.

The project that we are taking part in is called Singing for Memories. The idea is for our school to learn a couple of songs, and then have care home close to school, learn to sing it as well. We will be linking up with Redesdale, which backs onto our school grounds.

Once both parties have had 2/3 weeks practice The Eagles Community Foundation will then connect via Zoom to have a performance together. The hope is for the care home that older people will talk about memories connected to the song. And the hope is that once we are in a post-Covid world, we can have a performance together.

The Community Foundation will also record the online performance so that friends and family of both groups can experience what is taking place. We will be sending more information home next week once all of the plans have been finalised.

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher

January 26th 2021