



Holystone Newsletter

7th May 2020

Dear parent or carer,

School remains closed for most pupils and as yet there is no information on how the nationwide closures will be lifted. Like you, I will be watching the Prime Minister closely on Sunday for any further information and as soon as we have some news on this I will let you know.

Although Holystone is closed for most pupils, school has actually remained open for a small number of children across this period, we were open across most of what would have been the Easter holiday and we will remain open on the bank holiday and across the half-term week to support key workers. Staff are in school on a regular rota basis and when they are not working in school they are working from home to provide the work uploaded to the on-line platforms daily, working developing the curriculum or taking part in CPD training. The staff have asked me to let you know that the feedback they are receiving from the children via Seesaw and Tapestry is lovely and we are all really grateful for your support in helping your children continue to respond to the daily activities in very high numbers. I had a lovely time listening to several of the Year 1 pupil weather reports uploaded last week.



TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

Most people are now set up and accessing these learning platforms, if you have any issues logging on then contact us via enquiries@hsps.org.uk and we will try to respond as quickly as we can.

Transition Arrangements

Whether Primary to High School or Nursery to Reception, we know that transition can be an anxious time for children and parents alike. Currently, we are awaiting further information at both a national level and local authority level before the details can be confirmed. However, staff are very busy planning for this and working either with colleagues in school or with our partner high schools to ensure this can be as smooth as possible when the time comes.

For our current Nursery pupils moving up to Reception, we will be in touch very soon with information on how we will manage this. Some of you may have younger children due to start Nursery and will be wondering about taster days. Clearly, these cannot proceed in the normal way and again we are talking with other schools and the Local Authority as to how best we manage this. Again, all pupils due to join our Nursery will be contacted very soon with more information.



Holystone Newsletter

For High School transition, any admission appeals will be held remotely and if you have appealed then you should receive details about this from North Tyneside Council. I am aware some high schools have written to parents directly about transition. Staff in Year 6 are completing a large number of transition forms and are in regular contact with many of our high schools. I know that high school staff would like their planned transition days to happen, but this is entirely dependent on whether the situation improves enough for the Government to lift some of the current restrictions.

For our own pupils moving year groups, we are already thinking carefully about this and again, this will be influenced by any lifting of the current closure before July. Children usually find out their new class teacher in early July and this will continue to be the case this year.

School Telephone Number

Just a reminder that the school telephone number has changed to 0191 9170004. The divert feature on the previous number will end on 31st May so please make a note of the number or add it to your phone.

If we contact you from this number, and we are looking to try to make contact with you all across the coming weeks, you will notice the phone displays a Durham location. This is because our IT contractor is based in Durham. When our new line was installed, they requested our new number which has been linked to their office location. This issue is not present if you add us to your contacts under the school name.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Baines
Head Teacher