25th June 2021

**One Week Circuit Breaker**

Dear Parent / Carer,

We hope this finds you safe and well in these challenging times. After the recent increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases within school, the Governing Body & Headteacher of our wonderful school have decided to move all teaching & learning to Remote Learning immediately. This break in face to face learning will enable all pupils and staff to undergo PCR testing, potentially begin isolation and enable the school to undergo an enhanced clean. We intend for school to reopen fully for face to face learning on **Monday 5th July** for anybody not self-isolating via NHS Test & trace.

**Advice for families**

We have been advised that there has been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. In line with the national guidance, we recommend that you arrange a PCR test for your child via [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. If you have difficulty accessing a PCR test please contact the Community Hub for help on 03000 260 260 or communityhub@durham.gov.uk

Even if your child returns a negative test result it is still important that they stay at home during this period of home-learning (Circuit Breaker) and avoid mixing within the community. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. If you need support with isolation, please contact the Community Hub for help.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the period. If your child is well at the end of the period of home-learning (Circuit Breaker), then they can return to usual activities.

**Apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment**

If your child tests positive - As a parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate, you may need to take time off work to look after them. If this is the case you may be eligible for a self-isolation payment of £500. For more information please see: [www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment](http://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment)

**Home-learning**

Home-learning, live lessons and daily phone calls will begin **from Monday 28th June** and the pupils work will once again be published on the school website. You will also be allocated a time & link for your child(s) live learning sessions, which are held via Zoom / MS Teams. We recommend that you ensure our school office has your latest e-mail address – please send it to support@whprimary.com.

**School Meals**

If your child is entitled to free school meals then we will be continuing to offer these as a daily packed lunch collection service from our school yard between 12:00pm – 1:00pm. If you wish to access this service then please inform the school office via e-mail or telephone call as soon as possible.

**How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

* wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
* use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
* wash your hands as soon as you get home
* cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
* put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
* keep a regular flow of fresh air into indoor areas.

**Help, support, and further information.**

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

**Useful Websites**

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help

www.durhamlocate.org.uk

If you need support or further guidance then, as always, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Scarr

Headteacher