



Chester le Street CE Primary School Newsletter

Issue 3

Friday 18th September 2020

Our Core Christian Values: Thankfulness ~ Friendship ~ Compassion ~ Service ~ Endurance ~ Wisdom

www.chester-le-street.durham.sch.uk

COVID-19 Update

For the last week the news has been flooded with information about the rise in COVID cases, lack of testing and confusing mixed Government messages. As parents, staff and children we are all worried by this and we all continue to do the best we can for our communities.

As a school leader I am sure you can appreciate that each day I am inundated with information from the Local Authority as well as Government updates. The situation I find myself in is completely unprecedented and actions are having to be taken on a day to day basis and advice sought from various different sources on various different issues.

However, I am also the parent to two Primary aged children and I share your concerns around how staff at Schools are keeping our children safe. Please understand that I treat your children as my own when they are in my care at School. We must reach that balance of keeping our children safe physically whilst still keeping their emotional wellbeing in the forefront of our minds. We want our children to love coming to School, not to be overwhelmed with worry about COVID-19. At least once a day I hear from my own children that they wish COVID would just go away. However, we need to continue to work together and support each other to keep our community safe, because COVID is not going away, and is something that will hinder our everyday lives for some time to come.

So please bear with us, we don't have all the answers, we will have to take advice and unfortunately some decisions that we have to take will not be popular. But please understand we are doing everything we can to keep your children safe under very difficult circumstances.

Due to the rise of Covid cases in the North East, we would ask all parents/carers, and children to follow the local lockdown guidance provided by the Government. We would also encourage you to follow the details on letters sent home with children. This is to protect everyone in our school and wider community. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

The latest local lockdown guidance for our area can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-measures-introduced-in-parts-of-the-north-east-to-tackle-rising-infection-rates>

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Unfortunately a member of the After School Club team is having to self isolate due to a family member displaying Covid symptoms. Therefore breakfast and after school club have been closed with immediate effect, until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Once we know more information, we will relay this to parents/carers. Anyone who was booked in to attend these clubs will be issued a refund in due course.



We are currently experiencing major technical issues with Parent Pay. We are waiting for their tech support team to resolve the issue at their end but this could take a few days due to the influx of schools

Please be patient with the office staff at this time as they are in the process of trying to issue refunds for breakfast and After School Club, and school meals.

Diary Dates

Monday 5th October

Flu Immunisations (YR–Y6)

Monday 26th–Friday 30th October

Autumn Half Term

Thursday 12th November

Individual Photographs

Friday 18th December

Inset Day School Closed

Monday 21st Dec–Friday 1st Jan

Christmas Holidays

Monday 4th January

Inset Day School Closed



Unfortunately due to new local lockdown restrictions we are postponing our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. We feel this is the right decision due to the new Government guidance.



The flu vaccination programme in schools will be going ahead in our school on Monday 5th October. It is likely that flu and COVID-19 will both be circulating at the same time, which means that it is more important than ever this year to help protect against flu. The vaccination (nasal spray) is free and is given via a quick spray up the nose by a School Nurse.

Parents/Carers must give consent online: www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent

School Name: Chester-le-st CofE

Code: 114213

Further information can be found on our Facebook page.



Please take extra care when parking outside of school to drop off or pick up your child, cars should not be parked on the white lines opposite the school gates. Also, please be mindful of our neighbours by not blocking their drives etc. Children are being reminded to take extra care when crossing the roads outside of school.



Please can parents ensure they adhere to social distancing at drop off and pick up times. We would also actively encourage the wearing of masks by parents and carers. We understand that there is a bottle neck at the school gates however we would ask that you are patient, and queue to come through these gates. The only alternative would be to set up a one way system, however I am unsure this would be practical for parents at this time.



If you have a query or question, please contact the school office. Facebook is not constantly monitored throughout the day and messages can sometimes be missed.



Unfortunately Tempest are unable to take family group photos due to the current Government guidance. Tempest are following their own risk assessment as well as ours, and unfortunately it doesn't allow for this. All children will have their individual photo taken within their bubble. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



If your child is ill or absent for any reason, parents or carers are asked to phone the School Office by 9am giving a reason for the child's absence. If we have not received a call, we will contact you to enquire why your child is absent. If we are unable to contact you, we will explore all available contacts until contact has been made.

Please note, Doctor, Dentist and other medical appointments should be made outside of school time, where possible. If this is not possible, we ask for a copy of your child's appointment card be given to the school office.