

Cassop Primary School and Nursery



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Headteacher: Ms V Hewison

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope this letter finds you safe and well.

Over the last 24 hours there has been great speculation as to whether or not Primary Schools will reopen w/c 4th January. The government advice is that our school remains open for face-to-face teaching. However, in order to bring the rate of infection down for Covid-19 several trade unions are recommending staff do not deliver face-to-face lessons and instead offer remote learning.

The most recent advice from SAGE is that schools should not open in January other than for children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is because the scientific advice is that it is not safe for schools to open. There are new variants of Covid-19 that are highly infectious and infection rates have increased significantly since schools closed.

The introduction of Tier 4 measures in England combined with the school holidays will be informative of the strength of measures required to control the new variant but analysis of this will not be possible until mid-January.

In addition to this I am sure you are aware of the article in the Chronicle on the 28th December that identified Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill as having an infection rate over 400 (408.3 per 100.000).

Whilst the education and well-being of the children is always our priority at Cassop a full reopening on Tuesday 5th January is unfortunately not possible. We will continue to review these measures however; they will be in place for the full week in the first instance.

School will be open from Tuesday 5th January for Key Workers and vulnerable children (those with an EHCP or a social worker). If you fall into this category and your child needs to attend please complete the attached Keyworker Information Form and return via email to p2362.admin@durhamlearning.net before 12 noon on Monday 4th January.

If your child is not in school but in receipt of free school meals, the school will provide a packed lunch as per the previous closures.

We will be delivering our curriculum from Tuesday 5th January via Tapestry for Class 1 and 2 and via Teams for classes 3 to 6. This will be the same work for those children either attending school or at home to ensure consistency for all children.

I apologise for the short notice and will endeavour to keep you updated. Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times.

Yours faithfully

Ms V Hewison
Headteacher

