

Dear Parents

Following Boris Johnson's announcement, Northburn will be closed to all pupils except those whose parents are key workers, children who are vulnerable and those with an Education Health Care Plan from Tuesday the 5th of January 2021.

We have seen a sharp rise in the number of parents requesting a place because they are key workers. Requests exceed the recommended levels stated in government guidance at the last national lockdown. In the absence of updated guidance for schools like Northburn, whose parents are in the main key workers category, I am referring back to advice given during the last lockdown. In this guidance, it was recommended that there should be enough space in classrooms for children to socially distance at a minimum of 1m. As a result, I am again in the position where I will need to prioritise places.

I wish to keep children in the bubbles they have been in since September. This will mean that we are able to open again more effectively as soon as it is safe to do so. This will unfortunately reduce the number of children I can safely accommodate.

If you can care for your child safely at home, I ask that you do so. This will mean that we will be able to remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend. Please note that children who are in school will be completing home learning alongside children at home.

I will prioritise places according to the following criteria:

1. Vulnerable children (including children with an EHCP) and children where both parents are key workers or a single parent is a key worker.
2. Children where one parent is a key worker and there is another parent in the household who is not a key worker.

Please only send your child into school tomorrow if your family falls into category 1 and you have already requested a place. When I have a better idea of numbers, I will look to offering more places. Any new requests received tonight cannot be confirmed until tomorrow. The office will contact you. Please do not send your child into school until you have this confirmation.

If you need to change an original request (i.e it is not needed anymore) or make a new request, please email admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk. Please tell us the full name of your child and their class.

Tomorrow, we will be focused on providing you with further information about home learning.

NORTHBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

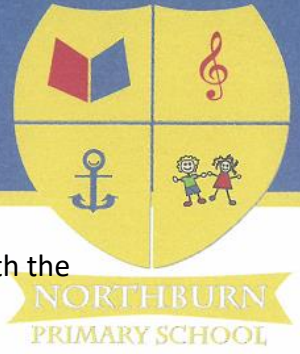
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Headteacher: Mrs Clare Scott



Drop off and pick up arrangements will stay the same. We will also go ahead with the provision of a hot lunch for those that want it.

I appreciate both the difficulties and anxiety this causes Northburn families and staff.

I am very grateful for your continued support and understanding.

Clare Scott