



North Tyneside Council

Education, Learning and Skills
Early Years and School Improvement Service
The Langdale Centre
Langdale Gardens
Howdon
WALLSEND
Tyne and Wear
NE28 0HG
E-mail: sharon.harries@northtyneside.gov.uk
www.northtyneside.gov.uk

Telephone number (0191) 6438500
This matter was dealt with by Diane Buckle

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Dear Parents

I wanted to write to you to thank you for your support and the helpful messages received. Additionally, we have also received some queries in relation to school re-opening and remote learning, so I thought it would be useful to outline the current situation.

These are exceptionally challenging times for all of you and your children and last week I think we all felt frustrated when the Prime Minister confirmed that schools would remain closed until March 8th. I appreciate that for many this will have been hugely disappointing, and we all look forward to the day when our children and young people can return to the classroom full time. There remains much speculation over the timeframe for re-opening, but until then it remains our imperative for you to stay at home, where you can, and continue our fight to reduce the spread of coronavirus in our communities. Our schools will promptly keep you informed of their arrangements for re-opening as it is likely it will be on a phased return basis.

We have had some concerns about your child's disrupted learning, just as many of our young people share their concerns about missing friends and their teachers. We understand and share your frustration. Home learning on this scale is new to us all and our schools are working hard to develop their approaches to remote learning. None of this is easy, and while approaches to remote learning may differ from school to school, it is important to remember that all schools are ensuring that work completed at home keeps pace with that undertaken in school. Activities will follow the expectations set out within the National Curriculum and examination syllabus. Some of our schools are delivering live lessons, and some are using recorded lessons, both have equal merit. All schools are continuing to improve the remote learning offer. Many parents are playing an active part in supporting and encouraging their child with remote learning. A personal thanks for this as you can't underestimate the importance of you continuing to encourage your child to participate in their learning and use the feedback mechanisms available to you if they are struggling.

Thank you for your continued support through such difficult times.

Please keep safe.

With warmest regards

Diane Buckle
Assistant Director for Education