



## APRIL NEWSLETTER



### SCHOOL NEWS

We hope that you are all keeping well in these very strange times. Whilst school has been closed to most pupils, we have been able to support the government's aim of keeping school open for eligible children to support their families. We were very pleased to be able to offer this facility when needed over the Easter holiday to continue this support. We were also pleased to be able to support the NHS through a donation of mini-whiteboards and pens to support families with loved ones in critical care. Some of our staff have also been busy making 'scrub bags' for the NHS.

We hope that you have been able to see the wonderful display of rainbows in the village made by our children.

In school our teachers and teaching assistants have a rota in place for supporting the children, and the staff who are in daily have reduced their contact time. All staff are observing social distancing as far as it is possible when working with small children. We have a number of staff who are working from home under the government guidelines.

If you need to contact school urgently for any reason, please use our email addresses as these are monitored regularly during each working day:

School Office: [admin@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk)

Headteacher: [nicola.mathewson@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:nicola.mathewson@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk)





## **SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT HOME**

By now you will have seen a number of messages from us with suggestions as to how to support your child at home. We appreciate the difficulties that some families may have when accessing online activities so, where possible, we have made suggestions for activities that can be carried out offline.

We hope that you have had a chance to access Mrs Walton's Outdoor and Recycling Crafts blog [muddylessons.wordpress.com](https://muddylessons.wordpress.com). There are lovely activities suggested which we are sure that your child will have lots of fun with.

Home learning for the children in Early Years will be posted weekly as a memo on Tapestry. There will be suggested activities, websites for interactive games or information and also a weekly competition. Watch out for the memos which started on Monday 20th April. We still have a small number of parents whose accounts are not yet active. Please get in touch if you need help with this via the school office email. If you are already on Tapestry and have any questions or queries about your child's learning, please feel free to ask via an observation post as these are checked regularly. Thank you to all of the parents who have shared their child's work. It's been lovely to see what the children are up to at home.

Online learning for Years 1-4 also started on 20 April with new lessons being released each morning on Google Classroom. If you are having any issues accessing Google Classroom through School 360 then please contact Mr Grimes by email at [\*\*colin.grimes@school360.co.uk\*\*](mailto:colin.grimes@school360.co.uk)

Our resources have been designed to be completed at any time of day. We understand that there may be conflicts with accessing devices so there is no expectation for children to be logged in during school hours. A member of staff will be available online between 9.30 and 10.30 each weekday morning to answer any questions about that day's (or any previous day's) learning. You can leave questions at any time in the Google Classroom stream but please be aware that they may not be answered until the next working day.

It is vitally important that we keep our children safe online. Last week we produced an online safety update and sent out a link. This is available via our website. There has been a reported increase in criminals attempting to exploit children and vulnerable adults during this situation. If you are unsure about anything you are sent, or anything that your child is accessing online, then please contact Mr Grimes or Mrs Brotherton.



## STAFF NEWS

We have been very fortunate this year to have Mr Carr working with us as a student teacher. His placement with us has now completed. We are sure that you will join us in wishing him the very best for his future as a fully-fledged teacher. Well done Mr Carr, and thank you from all of us at Rothbury First!



## MESSAGES FROM YOUR TEACHERS

*"We are all missing you and look forward to the time when we will meet again. Stay safe."*  
- Mrs Mathewson

"Things are very different at the moment. We are missing each and every one of you. Have fun learning at home and enjoying time with your family. Stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you all soon" - Mrs Brotherton

"These are the strangest of times and it's a very different feel to school on the days I've been in. Our building isn't a school without children in it - see you all soon!" - Mr Grimes

"Stay safe and well everyone. We are all missing being in school and seeing happy smiling faces everyday. Hope to see you all very soon" - Mrs Duffield

"I hope you are getting outside as much as you can because listening to the birds and watching things grow and watering them or weeding your garden remind us that our planet is strong and we will come through this hard time. Scientists are working hard to find a vaccine and beat the virus so keep thinking like a scientist. Can't wait until we are back together again." - Mrs Walton

"This is a strange time, but one we get to spend learning and playing with our families. We miss you all and look forward to finding out about everything you have been up to. Stay safe and keep smiling!" - Mrs Robinson



**Social Media Links:** For all the latest updates in school follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rothburyfirst/> or on Twitter @rothburyfirst.

## **Updated Government guidance for parents and carers:**

The Government guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings has been updated with additional information on the resources and support available to help parents educate their children at home.

The guidance can be found in the following links:

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and education during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

[Supporting your children's education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Help children aged 2 to 4 to learn at home during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Help children with SEND continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL MEAL VOUCHER SCHEME?

This is an extract from the NCC webpage:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>

If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits, please apply using the NCC online form. Once your application has been accepted, you would then be eligible for the National Meal Voucher Scheme from that point during the period of school closure. This is currently £15 per week per child.

- Universal Credit
  - Provided you have an annual net income of no more than £7,400
  - This is assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit
  - Provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run on
  - Paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### To claim free school meals

Online:

- **Click [here](#) to complete our NCC online application form**

Telephone:

- **0345 6006400**

**PLEASE LET SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED AND SO YOU HAVE MADE AN APPLICATION, YOU DO NOT NEED TO WAIT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN AUTHORISED.**