



10th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the Lockdown restrictions begin to ease, I wanted to update you all about the steps taken by Bamburgh School to ensure that we continue to support all pupils (and parents/carers) - whether you have chosen to send your child to school or to keep them at home at present.

You may have seen that government advice is for schools to open for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils at present. However, the advice for special schools is slightly different. We have been asked to 'work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups'. ['Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers' 20.5.20]. With this in mind, our first action was to seek your views on whether or not you wished to send your child to school at the moment via a questionnaire. We considered what you told us, and we offered places (currently part time) to all pupils whose parents requested this. School is, therefore, opening to more pupils this week.

For those of you whose children are returning to school, there are lots of changes to the ways that we normally do things. We have discussed these with you all individually, and will keep you updated if anything changes. All changes are designed to keep pupils safe, and I am confident that you will support us to do what is best for pupils, as you always do. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any worries or issues around the new organisation.

For those of you who wish your child to stay at home at the moment, we remain committed to supporting you as much as we can, in the following ways:

- We will continue to set, mark and return work so that your child misses as little as possible whilst he or she is not at school.
- We will continue to phone you regularly to ask about your child's health and well-being (and your own), to check how pupils are managing to complete the work that we are setting for them, and to offer any support that we can.
- Our school counsellor can call to speak to your child, if you feel that this would be helpful.
- The school office is open during normal school opening hours. Please do not hesitate to call if you have a problem that we can help with.
- If your circumstances, or your preferences, change over the coming weeks, please let us know. We will do our best to respond to your needs - though any operational changes that we make in school must have regard to government guidance on how best to keep all pupils safe in school.

As we welcome those children who are returning and continue to support those who need a little longer at home, there will, no doubt, be new challenges for us all to work through. As always, the best way to tackle challenges is to work through them together!

Kind regards,

P. Nord (Head Teacher)

Generic Special School for Pupils with Medical & Emotional Conditions.

