

Northern Primary School Hub

Lezayre Road, Ramsey, Isle Of Man

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Friday, 15th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, the Northern Hub is now admitting more children following the addition of those working in construction, horticulture and trade to those who may make use of the facility.

This added intake means that we are now reaching our current maximum capacity, and as such we need to stress to you all that if you would like your child to attend the Hub for any periods, it is crucial that you book your child's place in advance. We do not have the ability to manage unexpected arrivals, and so we will not be able to admit any children who turn up without having already informed the school of their attendance.

Please note that staying at home is still the safest option for children, and if they **can** stay at home then they should. Also note that it is now permitted for children to be looked after by members of their family, which may be a more suitable option for you than attendance at the hub – you can find out more about that at the IOM Government's Covid-19 website here: <https://covid19.gov.im/general-information/childcare/>

In order to host the increased numbers of children, we have had a bit of a reorganisation. The 'Infant Hub' will be in our Year 3 corridor; the 'Countryside Hub' (for children from our surrounding schools) will be in our Year 5 corridor. The 'Junior Hub' will be in our Year 6 corridor. Staff will be on the playground in the mornings to help direct children to the right place. In order to avoid a gathering of a crowd of parents, we do ask that parents observe social distancing when dropping off and collecting their children – and where possible part with their child at the gate to the playground.

We will be adding our risk assessments and other associated documents to our websites, but here is just a flavour of some of the measures being put in place.

- In order to manage social distancing to the best of our ability in classrooms, we are able to admit nine children per classroom. Our current staffing, caretaking, and cleaning provision means that we can currently safely open and maintain three corridors in the junior building; with three classrooms in each corridor, that of course equates to twenty seven children in each corridor, and so eighty one children in total.
- Should our numbers in the hub increase beyond that, we will of course seek support from the Dept. of Education, Sport and Culture in order to expand further. However, we will need to limit admittance to those numbers until further notice.
- Each corridor is treated as an individual 'mini-hub'; each has its own entry and exit points, toilets and hand washing facilities, while break-times and lunchtimes will be staggered

throughout the day. Children eat their lunch in their own 'mini-hubs', and lunches are delivered to the 'mini-hubs' so that children do not need to travel outside of their own areas for this.

- Each pupil has their own allocated tray/folder which contains their school utensils which are used by them alone and not shared.
- We have marked the floors in corridors and shared areas in order to help children maintain their social distance, while desks in classrooms are placed so as to provide a 2-metre physical distance between each pupil. Maintaining physical distancing with children is our biggest challenge – we'll do all we can, but as children move and play it is impossible to guarantee!
- Adults in school are ensuring regular hand washing and use of hand-sanitiser, while pupils are using the toilets one by one, with hand washing reminders and hand sanitiser with the teachers.

It all makes for a very unusual version of school! But of course the safety and health of our pupils and staff are paramount, and we are working closely with the Dept of Education, Sport and Culture to ensure we continue to work within their guidelines – for example, this week we have 'walked through' our measures with a member of the Department and a Health and Safety Officer, and we will continue to review and adapt our provision if and when advice and guidance changes.

We would like to offer our most sincere gratitude and appreciation to our school community for your ongoing support and encouragement; it is so fantastic to know that we are all working together to keep each other safe and healthy – thank you.

With best wishes,

David Jenkins, Kathryn Oates, Alex Quane, Trish Dudley, Will Nelson (Northern Hub Headteachers)