



Alston Moor Federation

Alston Primary School

Nenthead Primary School

Samuel King's School

**Working Together – Achievement
For All**

20th May 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

Thank you very much for replying to my last letter and informing us that you wish your child/ren to return to school when we reopen. I am now in a position to write to you with further details of the school provision we can offer, in the first instance. Government and Local Authority guidance is being updated regularly and therefore I will be reviewing the opening of both primary schools regularly, as we move through the coming weeks. The information in this letter is what we are able to offer as a first step in the slow and phased return and may change as time goes on depending on a number of factors.

Online learning will continue to be set by the teachers of all three schools in the Federation and will be available to all year groups.

From **w/c June 8th**, Alston Primary School and Nenthead Primary School will be open on a **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 3.30pm.**

Please note, we can only offer **Alston Primary School Year 1 children** a **Wednesday and a Thursday** in school due to staffing.

We have made every effort to ensure all of the children in our care will be as safe as possible and we have implemented a range of measures, following DfE guidance (Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings'), to lower the risk of transmission of the virus:

- Children will be in 'bubbles' of no more than 8 and will stay with these children for the day with their teacher. This is in line with the government guidance of half class sizes, small, consistent groups in the same classroom and minimising of contact and mixing of children.
- Classrooms will have altered layouts to allow for distancing, soft furnishings, toys that are hard to clean and unnecessary equipment have been removed where possible and there will be limited equipment available to children. Outdoor activities will be planned for as frequently as possible throughout the day as the curriculum can be adapted and amended during this time.
- Lunchtimes will be staggered (Alston Primary School) and bubbles of children will have separate playing spaces. Play equipment will be limited.
- Enhanced cleaning, hand washing and coughing/sneezing procedures. Teachers will clean surfaces and equipment that is being touched by children, regularly

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throughout the day and the cleaning team will conduct an enhanced cleaning regime at the end of every school day. Handwashing will be increased throughout the day and children encouraged to follow 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' if they cough or sneeze.

- Please note, the wearing of face masks and coverings is **not** recommended for education settings.

The teachers across both schools have been working extremely hard to ensure they can welcome the children back into a safe and welcoming environment which does not feel clinical or frightening however there will be a 'new normal' and school will have to operate in a different way. We would really appreciate your support in preparing your child/ren for returning to school. You can do this by:

- Talk to your child/ren about maintaining social distance and what this means in an age appropriate way.
- Practise handwashing and coughing/sneezing into a tissue/elbow.
- Provide your child/ren with their own water bottle to use throughout the school day. Please make sure it is labelled with their name. Shared water cups/bottles will not be available in school.
- If it is sunny, please make sure your child/ren has suncream on that will last all day. Teachers will not be able to apply any suncream.
- Please make sure your child/ren can dress independently. Children can wear leggings or jogging bottoms with their school t-shirt and jumper/cardigan so they don't need to change for PE and can be more independent when going to the toilet. Teachers will not be allowed any physical contact with children to help them dressing. Please can children with long hair tie it up securely.
- Children should only bring their coat, water bottle and packed lunch (where appropriate) to school. No personal belongings from households will be allowed into school and school will not send any school resources home.
- Where children are being accompanied to school, only one parent should bring them. Parents will not be able to come into the school building, are politely asked not to gather at school gates and entrances and are asked to respect social distancing by remaining 2m apart from other families, as per DfE guidance. Children will need to arrive promptly at 9.00am and be collected promptly at 3.30pm. Please note, there are no breakfast clubs or after school clubs.
- Children will have their own designated entrances into school and will only be allowed to into school via these entrances to reduce mixing and to allow for distancing. **All Nenthead children will use the main entrance, Alston Primary School**

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Reception children will use the entrance door in the Reception outdoor area, Alston Year 1 children will use the Middle Fell classroom door on the playground and Year 6 Alston children will use the main front door into school. Teachers will be at the different entrances at 9.00am to welcome the children into school.

- Families are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible. Weardale Private Hire are operating school transport for those children however at this stage, it is unclear whether the Garrigill bus will operate so please arrange to bring your children to school.
- Nenthead Primary children will be provided with a school packed lunch if they have school dinners and Alston Primary children can order their school dinner in the normal way. Any child can bring their own packed lunch if they would prefer to do so.
- If your child or any member of the household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, they must not attend school. Please notify us if a member of your household becomes unwell with symptoms. Please make sure there is someone available to collect your child immediately if they become unwell in school.

I appreciate this is going to be quite a different way of working and learning but please be assured that the teachers and all staff members in our Federation will continue to put your children at the heart of everything we do and their happiness, wellbeing and safety is our absolute priority.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on stimmons@alston.cumbria.sch.uk. The hub provision closes on Friday 22nd May however the school office reopens on Monday 1st June. We can offer a limited hub provision for vulnerable children and key worker children w/c June 1st as we have done throughout this half term but places are limited. If you wish to book in the hub for w/c June 1st, please contact me on the same email address.

In the meantime, I hope you have a relaxing May half term and as always, stay safe and take care. We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 9th June**.

Best wishes,

Sally Timmons

Acting Headteacher