

Alston Moor Federation

Alston Primary School
Nenthead Primary School
Samuel King's School

Working Together – Achievement For All

July 10th 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

I am writing to you at the end of what has been a very unusual term! Usually at this point of the Summer Term, the children and students are enjoying the different end of year events and looking forward to the summer holidays. Although we have welcomed a number of children and students back in to school over the last few weeks, we certainly haven't been able to see everyone and hold all of the wonderful days and activities we like to do under normal circumstances, at this point of the summer. All of the teachers are really looking forward to seeing all of the children and students again in September and returning to some kind of 'normal' routine. More about this later in the letter!

Key dates

- The school term ends on **Friday 17th July**.
- The school office will be open during the first week of the summer holidays and also weeks commencing August 17th and 24th.
- GCSE Results Day is **Thursday 20th August** and GCSE students can collect their results between 9am and 12noon.
- Tuesday 1st September is an INSET Day for all staff. All children and students return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

The term dates and calendar are on the school website. We have a number of parents evenings planned for the first half of the Autumn Term so parents will have an opportunity to speak to their child's teacher(s) as quickly as possible. We appreciate many of you may have questions to ask following the events of the last few months and this will provide the opportunity to do so early in the new academic year. More details of the parents evenings will follow in September.

I have attached the uniform and PE kit policies for each of the schools and ask that all children and students are ready to attend school in full school uniform from September 2nd. We have a stock of ties, jumpers and cardigans ready for you to order/buy and the primary book bags are also in stock. When the children and students have PE, they are expected to come to school in uniform and change in the lesson, following the new Covid-19 guidelines, which will be explained later in the letter.

We have new planners for all SKS students to use from September. They will be given their first planner free of charge but there will be a cost for replacement planners. All SKS students will be expected to use these to record their homework in. Tutors will be checking them regularly and we ask that parents do the same. All SKS students must also have their own equipment. The new Covid-19 guidelines advises that schools minimise the sharing of equipment therefore we ask that all older children and students have their own pens, pencils, rulers, scientific calculators etc.

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DfE guidelines

In the July 2nd guidance, the government has asked that schools prepare to welcome all children back from the beginning of the Autumn Term. They have said that attendance will be mandatory again from this point and that full attendance is expected. Excellent attendance is always crucial to your child's education but even more so after such a prolonged period of time out of school. The teachers will be working exceptionally hard to fill the gaps from this term and assess and plan for the best outcomes for all of the children and students. It is therefore more important than ever, that children have excellent attendance. If you have any concerns about your child returning to school, please contact me. Please can routine appointments be made outside of the school day where possible and any holidays booked outside of term time dates. Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

The breakfast club at Alston Primary will start again from Wednesday 2nd September at 8.00am and 8.30am for Nenthead Primary. Feet4Football will also start again on Wednesdays for PE and breakfast club.

To ensure the safety of all children and staff, the government has provided a framework for us to put in place protective measures which also ensure that all children and students receive a full, broad and balanced curriculum. I have outlined these measures below:

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell with Covid-19 symptoms – children and staff must not come in to school if they have symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days. Any staff or children who become unwell in school will be sent home immediately and all government procedures will be followed. Our schools will engage with the NHS Test and Trace system along with the government procedures for managing confirmed cases and containing an outbreak. Other members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days. Please notify the school office if anyone in your family tests positive for Covid-19.
- Children and students must follow all handwashing procedures and clean their hands regularly with either soap and water and/or hand sanitiser – on arrival at school, after breaks, as they change classrooms, before and after eating, at the end of the day.
- Tissues must be used for a 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Face coverings are not recommended for use in schools.
- Enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place by the cleaning team but also staff will clean surfaces and equipment between use and regularly throughout the day. It is recommended that staff and children have their own items and equipment.
- School will minimise contact and interactions where possible but it is recognised that children cannot socially distance from staff or from each other fully and so consistent class groups should be used where possible. Older children should maintain safe distances and there will be a no touch rule in place for older children who are able to maintain safe distances.
- Older children will be seated side by side where appropriate to do so and face the front. SKS teachers will stay at the front of the class. Face to face contact will be minimised. No whole school assemblies or large gatherings will take place. Windows and doors will be open where possible to allow for ventilation.
- PE will be outside for the majority of the time. Please can you ensure all children and students have adequate clothing for this so they keep dry and warm.
- Entrances and exits will be staggered to allow for distancing. NPS will use their main front door, APS classes will use their own doors and not the main primary entrance and SKS students will be staggered in through either the front door on Church Rd or the back secondary entrance. Please note the timings of

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the day for SKS have changed to 8.55am start and 3.15pm finish with the primary schools continuing to start at 8.50am and finish at 3.25pm.

- Unfortunately parents will not be able to gather on the playground once they have dropped off their child or collected them and we ask that all parents maintain a safe distance while waiting for their children. Any parent wishing to speak to a teacher, will need to make an appointment through the school office.
- I will write to all parents of children who use school transport, with the school transport guidance.

As always, the safety of all children, students, families and our staff is our priority. Please make sure your child is aware of the measures before September so they come prepared for some slight changes to their school day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me if the office is closed on stimmons@alston.cumbria.sch.uk.

Before I finish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their hard work this term. You have worked tirelessly to support your children through this period of time and have worked with school to make sure they have everything they need. I would also like to thank all of our teachers and support staff who have also worked untiringly to support you and your children. We are really looking forward to having our schools full of laughter and joy again in September and can't wait to see all of you again soon. We have invested in making improvements to the buildings and premises and some work begins over the summer holidays, which we are excited about.

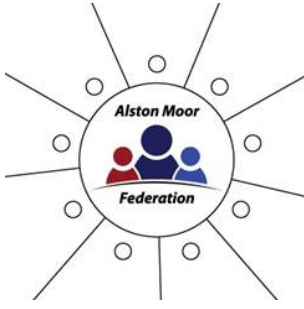
In the meantime, please can I ask that we have up to date details and contacts for all of our families including personal details and medication forms. If any SKS students wish to go home for lunch, they will also need a permission letter. If your current circumstances have changed and you feel you may be entitled to financial support through free school meals, please contact the office or apply online.

Have a lovely summer, stay safe and take care.

Kind regards,

S Timmons

Acting Headteacher



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