



## HOWLETCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pennine Drive  
PETERLEE  
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SR8 2NQ

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January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 Newsletter.

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been another busy week in school with approximately 100 pupils attending from Nursery up to Year 6. I am writing to update you on a few matters:

### **IMPORTANT - School Lunches**

Due to staffing issues in the school kitchen we will be unable to provide the children in school with a meal at lunchtime on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week (18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>). Please provide your child with a packed lunch on each of these days. If your child is entitled to free school meals then you will be reimbursed with a voucher. Our office staff are in the process of signing up for vouchers for those parents whose children are entitled to them. We will send these out to you as soon as we can.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club will continue to run every day next week.

### **Winter weather**

If your child is attending school, please can you ensure that they are wearing wellies, boots or strong shoes as it has been particularly wet and snowy lately. It may also be an idea for children to have a spare pair of tights / socks in their bags in case they get wet feet.

### **Courtesy calls**

Some of our staff have been making courtesy calls to parents to see how the children are managing with their online learning at home and to ask if any help is needed. This may show up on your phone as Private number or number withheld. If your child is having problems with their online learning and you would like a call back, please email the school on [o.howletch200@durhamlearning.net](mailto:o.howletch200@durhamlearning.net) and a member of staff will call you back as soon as they can.

### **Purple Mash emails**

We hope that you have found the new email facility helpful this week. If you have not yet discovered this, there is a video clip on our school Facebook page which Mrs



Beattie has made to help you to access this. I know that the teachers have found the emails very useful this week.

### Bug Club logins

You should have received an email with your Bug club log in details this week. Your teacher or a teaching assistant will be allocating the children reading books in the near future.

### Online class meetings

We are very keen to link up our pupils in school with those pupils working at home. Our IT support technicians have been very busy in a lot of schools this week and they are hoping that they will have the ability to set up our face to face meetings with the children very soon. (I'm hoping by this time next week. More details will follow).

### Homework

Well done to all of our children who are working so hard with their online learning and work in school. We do not plan to set regular homework for the children at the moment as we feel that many families are under enough pressure with adults working at home, trying to juggle school runs or online learning without the added pressure of extra homework. However, if your child is hungry for more and keen to learn we recommend exploring all of the curriculum areas on Purple Mash, BBC Bitesize which has excellent videos and activity suggestions. Also basic activities such as learning times tables and reading are just as valuable.

### Facebook page

We have been promoting ways of improving mental health and general wellbeing. You may find some of the links and suggestions helpful. It continues to be a very anxious time for us all and I hope that you and your family are safe and well. We look forward to a time when we will be able to welcome all children back to school.

Take care.

Mrs H L Adair (Head Teacher)

