

# Pegswood Primary School News

<http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

Issue 22



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

## Easter Egg Competition

The annual Easter egg competition is to return after an absence of two years! We would like the children to design and decorate their egg at home and bring in their finished piece on the final day of term – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April - to be judged, if they wish to take part. They may decorate their egg or use their egg as part of a 'bigger' scene. This may be with an Easter theme or something completely different! All we ask is that it is the children's work with your support if necessary! There will be a small prize for all entrants and a 'traditional' bigger prize for the winners in each class. If you would like to take your egg home after it has been into school, please make sure it is collected at the end of the day from the main hall. All eggs left after the end of the day will be disposed of, as I am sure you will appreciate, the smell when the children return after Easter would be unbearable!

## Covid Update

New cases have resurfaced in school during the last few weeks. The new guidance from today is:

- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

## Scarlet fever and chickenpox

We have two confirmed cases of scarlet fever: one in Nursery and one in Reception. The first signs can be flu like symptoms, including a high temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands – much like symptoms for lots of other infections. Please take a minute or two to visit the NHS website on scarlet fever if you think your child has these symptoms. If you believe they have scarlet fever, book a doctor's appointment. It is usually treated with antibiotics. Children can return to school 24 hours after the first lot of antibiotics, as they are no longer infectious or further through the course of antibiotics if they still feel unwell.

We have eleven confirmed cases of chickenpox: nine in Reception, one in Year 2 and one in Year 6. Small red spots can appear anywhere on the body and they will blister. Once the blisters have burst and dried out and crusted, they are no longer infectious and may return to school if they feel well enough. Until all the spots have dried out, please keep children off school.



## Free School Meal Vouchers

Most people should have received their £100 vouchers for the Easter holidays. This has changed from a meal voucher to a household grant voucher. The decision to change this to the household grant was taken at the Local Authority and the shops it can be spent in were agreed at a Local Authority level as well.

If you feel that your circumstances have changed regarding employment or anything else and you now believe you may qualify for Free School Meals, please look at the advice below and follow the link to see. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2022. **Free school meals covers school meals, milk and Northumberland County Council vouchers during the holidays.**

The application for Free School Meals is not referring to the Universal Free School Meals that are available to all children from Reception to Year 2.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

## Library

After the success of our sponsored read earlier this term, we have decided on a computerised system for the library and this will be installed during May. The library is still undergoing a makeover, with new shelving having been bought and a new supply of books being lent from the Schools Library Service, for which we are incredibly grateful. We are aiming to have the library open to children again after Easter.

