

Our ref: JPC/MK
Your ref: AIIPC/LD3/1.21

Friday 8th January

Dear Parents/ Carers

Well! Here we are again in Lockdown 3. Welcome to 2021!

Thank you for your continued patience and support under the current circumstances. Staff members, including myself, have received some very positive and affirming comments this week; lifting our spirits.

Please find enclosed some additional information about what is happening in school; keeping you all "in the loop". If there is something I have not covered in this letter, please feel free to get in touch and I will get back to you.

On-site learning

Until such time as the national lockdown ends (possibly February half term) school can only deliver face-to-face learning to CWV (**C**ritical **W**orker & **V**ulnerable) children only. All other children are to continue their learning from home. The definitions of those children who are CWV can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you feel that your child may be eligible for a CWV place, please do not hesitate to contact school to discuss this further. You will be required to provide detail and confirmation that your child meets the criteria.

This is all done so as to support the lockdown by ensuring that as many people as possible stay at home; preventing possible transmission of any infections. I, as head teacher, have that responsibility of doing everything I possibly can do to support the national lockdown in keeping everyone safe.

Free School Meals (FSM)

In his address to the nation on Monday, the Prime Minister mentioned that there would be some kind of support for those families who are in receipt of benefits-related FSM. Schools have not yet received any information about this. Once we know what is happening we shall share this with all the relevant families.



If you are not currently receiving FSM but you think that your child may be entitled to them, please enquire at the local One-Stop Shop (Park Road) and apply asap.

If your child already has benefits-related FSM your child can continue to have a school packed lunch each day. If you would us to arrange this, please ring the school office no later than 10:00 to inform us. They would be available for collection 12:00 – 1:00pm.

Learning

This lockdown is very different from the previous ones in terms of expectations for learning. Under the first lockdown, schools were open to CWV children to provide childcare with little expectations of full curriculum provision. Under this lockdown schools are required to provide a high-quality education to all children; be they learning at school or at home. Additionally, ALL children are required to undertake all of their learning EVERY DAY (Monday – Friday).

This will be a focus of OFSTED when they inspect schools, either remotely or in person.

As a result, our school expectations for learning for ALL children; be they at home or in school, are as follows:

1. All children to undertake a minimum of 4 hours learning per day
2. That all work be uploaded according to the expectations explained by the teacher on Google Classroom
3. That all learning submitted by the children be of the highest standard
4. That all parents/ carers/ children (age-dependent) contact the teacher as soon as any help is needed. Help will be provided.
5. All learning planned is that which would have been taught had the children have been in school.
6. If there are difficulties with your child accessing Google Classroom you must inform school immediately. This can be sorted.

Moreover,

- School leaders will be monitoring the levels of participation, by children, in Google Classroom. This will be our way of monitoring attendance and wellbeing too.
- Parents/ Carers of children who are not accessing learning will be contacted by either the head teacher or deputy head teacher to find out why.
- If your child is too ill to undertake their learning, you must inform school (by email or through Google Classroom) with the reason why they are ill. Sufficient time will be given for your child to recover. If your child has not restarted learning after a sufficient amount of recovery time then either the head teacher or deputy head teacher will contact you to find out why.

Support for remote learning

Question: My child does not have a computer/ laptop/ tablet to access Google Classroom.

What can they do?

Answer: School has access to a limited number of Google Chromebooks which may be loaned to families (1 per family in the first instance, depending on availability) for the duration of the lockdown.

As per government guidance, priority will be given as follows:

- Priority 1 group: children in KS2 who are in receipt of benefits-related FSM who do not have access to a phone, tablet, laptop or computer at home
- Priority 2 group: FSM children in KS1 and Reception who do not have access to a phone, tablet, laptop or computer at home
- Priority 3 group: All other children

Question: What if my internet data is not enough for 3-4 hours per day?

Answer: School is able to apply for additional data packages to support children learning remotely online.

Schools **ONLY** can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

For each request, we need to know:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Please contact the school office if you would like to find out more information about this.

Question: Can my child access their Google Classroom learning any other way?

Answer: Yes.

Google Classroom can be access via Xbox or PlayStation consoles ... any I can imagine how many children received one from Fr Christmas this year or last! 😊

Very simple and clear instructions for using both devices can be found at:

<https://sway.office.com/SvG6LABEePPjPX5A?ref=Link>

Yours sincerely



Jan Conley
Head Teacher