

8 January 2021

Lockdown update:

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well at the end of this first week of 'National Lockdown 3'. The irony that it sounds like an awful movie sequel is not lost on me. However, we do once again, find ourselves having to open only for key worker and vulnerable children, whilst trying to support online home learning for the rest of our children.

Online learning via Microsoft Teams:

You should have received logins late Tuesday night / early Wednesday morning for Microsoft Teams for your children. You would also have received a class email address in the same email. I know some families contacted the school to say they had not, and we have helped resolve those issues by either directing parents to look in their spam/junk email folders or by giving these details again over the phone.

Work is being set daily by the staff and can be found in the assignments section of Microsoft Teams. Children staying at home should carry out this work and send it back via Teams or send it back to the class email address if asked to do so. Teachers are then looking at this work and will be providing feedback. This cannot always be instantaneous, as they are also teaching key worker and vulnerable children in school, but we will work as quickly as we can.

Teachers are also tracking pupils who have not yet accessed Microsoft Teams. We will be contacting these families early next week to see if we can help with any issues they may be having, so that their children are engaging with the online learning.

We appreciate that some of you have had some initial technical difficulties with this new way of having to work. We have been happy to help those who have contacted us, and we will continue to do so. If you are having trouble, please do not hesitate to give us a ring or send us an email.

Access to electronic devices:

One issue that we are aware of is access to devices to carry out online learning. Mr Leonard has already been in contact with several families concerning this issue and a letter was sent out yesterday directing families to an online form if they feel that they would benefit from an additional device.

A link to the online form is here: <http://bit.ly/38kKW6>

The letter is also available on the school website.

The number of pupils on role within the school is 487. The government have, thus far, provided us with 25 laptops to support home learning. Therefore, we are also going to be using any other available devices we have in school, such as iPads, to support our community's need. However, these devices all require reconfiguring and setting up so that they will work outside of the school setting. This is not an instant fix and so we do appreciate the patience whilst having to wait. As soon as devices are ready families will be contacted and asked to come and collect them. We are aiming to issue the first set of laptops by Monday 11 January 2021, with iPads following shortly thereafter.

Free school Meal Vouchers:

As yet, the government have not released information concerning the school dinner vouchers for children on benefit related free school meals. As a school we will continue to offer daily packed lunches for our benefit related free school meal children. Once the vouchers are made available, we will of course let you know and then get them distributed as quickly as possible.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Head
(Principal)