

Monday 18th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now at the beginning of lockdown week 3. I cannot thank you enough for your patience and support as we work to get our systems running smoothly.

Like many schools across the country, we must ensure we keep the number of pupils in school at a safe and manageable number. School staff really want to accommodate every child, but sadly, this just is not possible in the light of the new Covid regulations. We are currently operating socially distanced teaching and learning, with enhanced safety procedures, reduced staffing capacity due to sickness and/or isolation and additional responsibilities such as implementing testing and managing remote learning. To try to support as many pupils and parents as possible, we are asking critical workers to think very carefully before sending your child to school. If you are able to keep your children at home, then please do so.

This doesn't mean there isn't a place for your child if you are a critical worker, we will of course do everything we can to support critical workers, it is just that this proving to be a real challenge to us. Each school's capacity to take children will vary and will change on a day-to-day basis depending on availability of staff and the number of children attending. Please help by only requesting a place if you really need it.

This lockdown is very different to our first lockdown in March 2020. As always, our focus is pupil safeguarding and wellbeing but we must also make sure that our pupils continue to learn when they are not at school. This is not easy. We know that at home you will not have access to the resources we have in school and maybe feeling overwhelmed by this whole situation. We are trying to keep our approach as simple as possible whilst continuing to focus on key learning from the National Curriculum. Leaders in school are also working quickly to get access to more laptops to use at home, for those pupils who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals. We will not be able to provide every pupil with a laptop at home but we will do our very best to get as many as possible. If internet access at home is a problem for you, this is also something that we can help with, so please do let us know.

You will have seen in the media that the vouchers for those who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals are going to be available again. This system has not be made available to schools until today however I can confirm that an order has now been placed. We know in the past this system has been slow but we will keep you informed of when the order has been authorised and you can expect to receive the vouchers. Moving forward, vouchers will be issued each fortnight. The government have confirmed that schools will not be issuing these vouchers over the half term break. As the half term break gets closer, we will issue more information on where and how you can get support with food when school is closed if you need it.

Each week we will contact you via telephone to see how you are getting on. If you are struggling with anything, please do let us know. Our school office remains open and parents can contact us via their year group email addresses. If your child is learning through Google Classroom, they can also use this platform as a safe and secure way to contact their teacher directly.

We will always do our best to help. Please do not feel you have to wait for us to contact you if you need us. In the



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meantime, we hope you are all staying safe and well. We are looking forward to a time when we can all be together again.

Kind regards

Miss L Clapham
Executive Headteacher

