



25th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Stepping through 2021 Lockdown – Step 4
'Keep taking care of yourselves and your children' & Updates

Week 4 is underway – it was cold at the school gate this morning! With only 42 children to say hello to the warmth that a whole school of children brings was really missed! Let's be honest, we're missing you all and look forward to the time when we are back together again. The 'missing' feelings aren't getting any easier as the weeks go by either.

There have been surveys in the media this weekend that show how parents of primary school children are finding things difficult too – we can understand this, and know that the longer we are closed for most pupils, the more difficult things may feel. So we're keen to help, and the first step of this is to remind you that you are doing a brilliant job – the best sign of this is that, whatever you are doing, you and your child are happy, safe and comfortable. If this is becoming difficult, please get in touch with us as we'd be pleased to help.

Learning activities, social activities, and opportunities to play and keep in touch are being provided by our team here in many shapes and sizes – engage in a way that allows you and your children to feel comfortable, and above all else, let us know if we can help this better fit you and your child in any way. If in doubt where to begin, always check out the school website 'Splash page' or just phone or email us.

Class Mobile Phones

Talking of phone calls, our teachers have started using their class mobile phones – these should make contact in both directions much easier. To help this get underway, if you get a call from an unknown mobile number please pick it up – it'll probably be us and by keeping the number you'll have another way of getting in touch with your teacher direct so that they can help you.

Free School Meal - Vouchers

The voucher service replacing Free School Meals is well underway now – top up vouchers that reflect the increase in value from £25 to £30 each fortnight that the government agreed from last week will be with you very shortly. The good news is that vouchers for children who qualify for Free-School Meals will also be issued for half term using the same providers that we use. So you'll see no change how these are coming through to you for that week.

Laptops

With our second batch of laptops for children now in school we are pleased that these are flying out to families where these will support engagement with remote learning. Please get in touch if you think one of these would help your child keep in touch – perhaps the phone, tablet or existing laptop you're using isn't quite doing the job? Get in touch with us on 01626 203040 if this is the case, or of course drop us a line via email or School Gateway.

Staff COVID testing

In order to keep our school and staff team as safe as possible, you may be interested to know that we will be providing access to regular COVID testing for all adults in school beginning next week. This testing has been taking place in care homes and secondary schools for a while and we are pleased that we can now offer this to our team too. Every small step to keep our school safe for everyone is a worthwhile step.

As always, we'll continue to be in touch during this week – remember you're doing a great job, and if it feels like you could do with some help, please get in touch. Take care.

Yours sincerely,

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