



18th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Stepping through 2021 Lockdown – Step 3 Latest news - Free School Meal Vouchers & Laptops

As we begin to head into the third week of the school being closed to most pupils, we recognise that while perhaps we should 'be getting used to things' as individuals and a community, the reality can feel quite different to that. Our lives will have 'feeling good' days and 'more difficult' days as we manage the unknown – it's important to remind ourselves that it's okay and reasonable to feel that way.

We'd want you to know that we are here to help in any way that we can – all you need to do is get in touch with us and share when things feel uncomfortable. Whether this is about learning, family life, finances, food or whatever, we'll be keen to listen and to change things to help you and your family if we can.

As a school community we have so much to feel proud of – we couldn't be happier with the way that you are engaging with us. We're enjoying people keeping in touch, staying connected, in more ways than we could have imagined. This might be individual children getting special online time with their teacher to say hello and catch up; phone calls between staff members, parents and children; visits to school to pick up learning and say hello; group get-togethers and activities online through Google Classroom (story-time is so popular and a great opportunity to catch up with friends); children accessing in-school and online provision; emails; letters; School Gateway messages; website Splash Page activities; the list goes on and on!

What's most important is that you are getting what you need, the way you want it. Do get in touch with us if anything feels like it could be better for your child or you. You know where we are!

Free School Meal Update - *Are you getting what you're entitled to?*

Last week saw vouchers being issued to parents of children who qualify for free school meals. Get in touch if you haven't had yours! From this week the value of these will increase to £15 per week and you'll be receiving two weeks worth over the next few days. We're sticking with our local provider of vouchers for the time being – we know where we are with them, and so do you. We'll keep an eye on the national scheme that is being launched this week, and will keep in touch with you if we plan to make any changes.

Those children accessing in-school provision will only receive vouchers for those days when their children are not in school.

Laptops - *Do you have enough computers in your family to access remote learning easily?*

This week saw us provide 8 laptops to families to support them in accessing remote learning easily. The good news is we're expecting more this week. **Please get in touch with us if an additional laptop in your home would support your child in accessing home learning – sharing computers can be a real challenge at the moment, let us know if this is causing you a headache and we'll try and help.**

We are also keen to hear from you if you would be helped by:-

- Having a 4G router in your home, enabling connection to the internet via the mobile network
- Having increased data allowances on your existing mobile devices

We'll continue to be in touch during this week, and you know where we are if you'd like to make contact for any reason. In the meantime thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Take care.

Yours sincerely,

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