



8th January 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for all of your patience with home learning and the school closure. It has been a very busy week for all of us. I would like to thank many of you for your messages and feedback during the week. We have really tried to ensure that you have all been up to date with all the information. I would appreciate feedback if you feel that we could improve at all on our communication systems.

We have been preparing for the possibility of a school closure since September, although we hoped we would not have to use the plans. We have delivered staff training and have used Google Classroom in school with years 5 and 6 so the children were familiar with it.

The staff have been brilliant and are doing an amazing job. I am very proud at how they have embraced the challenge and juggled supporting large numbers of critical worker children in school and children at home. Please be aware the guidance states that 'parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children home if they can'. Please do inform the school office if your circumstances change. If your child is sick due to illness, please inform the school office. There is no expectation that your child should be working when they are unwell.

Remote learning

We are very much aware that it is difficult to home school your children, as you may be working from home yourself or your child may find concentrating difficult. To support this we are providing a mixture of lessons. Some will be live lessons, some will be pre-recorded and others will be independent directed tasks. Please try your best to get your child linked into the live lessons, as this will support their mental health and should take some pressure away from yourself.

The teachers have sent out their timetables; this will help you know when we would like children to log on to the live lesson. During live lessons, the teachers will only be live for the first part of the lessons, as we are aware of WiFi restraints and other issues. The remainder of the lesson will be independent activities, but the teacher will be available if the children need support. The work will then be either self-marked by the children or a teacher will mark it. You will be informed on how to hand the work in.

As previously mentioned, we understand the difficulties that parents who are home learning have. However, it is vital that your child completes the majority of the work set- I know there will be times when this is not possible. If your child does not attend any live lessons and doesn't engage with home learning then we will make a referral to the Academy Trust's Attendance Lead- she will support you through any difficulties that you have.

We have had a few technical issues getting the reception class into Google Classroom as their passwords were tied up within a system and we had to wait for external IT technicians to access them. We have received them today and Mrs Riley will be in touch to log the children on.

Children, who are in school, are not at an advantage to those not in school as they are receiving the same work and logging on to the same lessons. The exception is PE, but children at home will be directed to complete activities. PE in school is Monday and Wednesday for all children. The children must wear a PE kits on these days.





Acceptable use policy

Thank you all for responding so quickly to the acceptable use policy for Google Meet sessions. Your prompt responses have allowed us to ensure that the lessons can be live and it keeps everyone safe. If you have not responded and agreed to adhere to the policy then your child cannot join the live sessions. We will contact parents on an individual basis on Monday, if consent has not been given. Verbal consent is not enough- we must have written agreement. Please contact myself via class dojo or ring the school office if you have not given consent and we will guide you through the very simple process.

Resources

All children were given exercise books in September to use in situations like this. If you have misplaced them or have completed them, then we have spare exercise books and stationery sets – pen, pencil ,ruler and rubber- in the school office. You are welcome to come and collect them.

IT devices

This week, we have loaned out approximately fifty laptops. After allocating the sets in school, we have secured ten more devices. If you would like to like to discuss loaning a laptop then please message me or the class teacher on Class DoJo or email the school office and we can help where possible.

Free school meals

I hope that by now, all children who are entitled to a free school meal are registered. We have sent numerous pieces of communication out around this. If you believe you are entitled to FSM then contact the school office. If you are entitled to FSM, then food vouchers will be sent out to the most recent email. I apologise for the delay in this; we are awaiting confirmation that the system is ready to send. If this happens over the weekend then I will send them out. Each child entitled to a FSM will receive a £15 voucher per week. The voucher that you will receive will cover the past week. If your child is in school then you will not receive the vouchers as they will be receiving their meal within school.

This week we have asked you to inform us of any changes to email addresses. The vouchers will continue to be sent out weekly so if your situation changes, then please inform the office straight away so that you get the help you need.

We are aware that some families are not entitled to FSM, but are having financial difficulties. If this is the case then we can help you. Please contact the school using one of the many ways that we communicate and we can discuss how we can help. We are very understanding and confidential.



Thank you again for your patience and understanding at this time. We will send out further communication next week as we iron teething problems out.

Thanking you,

Mrs Tumelty
Acting Head of School.

