



Headteacher's Update 08.01.21



Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you all last Monday regarding the latest COVID 'lockdown' and it's impact upon our school and said I would update you all further today. As we all know, the government announcement on Monday evening placed the country into another lockdown in order to protect the NHS and the nation. Also, with the newer, more virulent strains we want to keep everyone in our 'Longwill family' as safe as possible. On Thursday 7th January, the DFE published further guidance and you can read it if you use this link <https://bit.ly/2LBEfb9>

As a result, are offering remote home learning to all pupils who require it and Mrs Jackson has written to you all about this today. Your teachers will have spoken to you about our plans. We expect that every child will join their class twice daily via TEAMS (morning and afternoon), where their teacher and teaching assistants will both take part. In addition to this, your child will have a weekly timetable when he/she will be offered 1:1 or smaller group sessions for BSL, English and Maths.

We understand that having your child at home at this time is difficult and that is why we are here to help you, continuing their learning remotely. Your child's class team are working hard to provide you with an exciting online provision (and can provide paper resources if you need them).

You are able to access lots of really brilliant online platforms, such as Espresso, Mathletics, Bug Club (for reading) and Times Tables 'Rockstars'. Your child has passwords for these. If you need any help accessing these websites please just let your teacher know and we can help.

Additional Free Data Allowances to support Remote Home Learning: If anyone needs additional mobile phone data then we can help. I wrote to you on 06.01.21 about this. Please do get in touch if this might be helpful to support your child with their home learning.

Physiotherapy Support: If your child usually benefits from physiotherapy input from school, you should have had an update just before Christmas with our physiotherapist (Jayne Towson) and so already have a programme, which you can follow at home. If you require any further support, please ring Victoria School (asking for Jayne) on: 0121 466 5960.

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Audiology: If you have any concerns about your child's hearing aids/CI processors, please do contact their audiology clinic in the first instance. If you require further support, then please ring the school line and ask to speak to our Clinical Audiologist (Lynette Pienaar).

Speech Therapy: Our school provision for SALT remains in place and so if you have any support requirements, then Kirsten Newman would be happy to set up a telephone or TEAMS consultation.

Free School Meals Vouchers: The government has announced that they will be issuing FSM vouchers once again, as they did in the previous lockdown last year. They have not yet issued schools with information about the provider they intend to use. Please be assured that, once we know, we will act very quickly to get these vouchers out to families as soon as is humanly possible!

Breakfast Club: a tasty bagel and juice is offered to pupils attending in-school provision and I am pleased to confirm that, if eligible, you will continue to receive breakfast deliveries to your home (via Amazon) during lockdown. Our school office staff have worked hard to ensure that this valuable provision, which begun last summer holiday and was continued over each holiday since continues. If you think you maybe eligible and have not yet received a delivery, please contact school and we will try to help.

Learning Mentors: If you child has been receiving support from one of our learning mentors, then this will continue throughout this period of restriction (via TEAMS). Mrs Jackson co-ordinates this and so please do contact her if you need anything further.

I would just like to send you all my very best wishes. I will be in touch again next Friday for another update! It is a fast changing landscape at present and so I will try to keep you regularly updated.

Yours faithfully,



Alison Carter
Headteacher