



28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As stated in our last letter we want to reassure you that children in school and working from home will receive both direct and indirect teaching and feedback on work completed. TEAMS meetings have now been set up and I know some children have attended these with teachers. It is very important that all children attend these sessions, which are to help them understand work set and keep in touch with school. If you are having any problems getting on to the TEAMS meetings please contact the school office as soon as possible and someone will be in touch to help.

Tomorrow (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January) we would like you to return your child's current lockdown book to school please for staff to mark. **This only applies to children who are not attending at any time during the lockdown.** These need to be left with staff who will be outside of the school gates on both sites from 9am-10:30am and from 1-2pm.

Place lockdown books in the boxes provided for each year group and staff will give you your child's new book. Please make sure you are socially distanced when you come – at least 2 metres from other parents. Suggested times for collection are below;

#### Church Street

#### Moor Lane

Reception 9-9.30  
Year 1 9.30-10.00  
Year 2 10.00-10.30

Year 3 9-9.30  
Year 4 9.30-10.00  
Year 5&6 10.00-10.30

Both sites will be open from 1-2 for anyone who cannot come for the books in the morning.

If you have children in more than one year group, you will be able to collect their books at the same time. Unfortunately, books will only be on the site, which your child usually attends.

#### Face Coverings

You **must** wear a face covering when coming on to the school premises. We need to take all necessary precautions to help reduce the risk spreading in school to you, your children and staff.

#### Teatime Club

Due to the additional cleaning regime at this current time, unfortunately we need to reduce end time for teatime club to 4:45. This change will take effect after half term – 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

#### February Half Term

School will be closed to all pupils during the February half term week. School closes at end of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and will re-open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Breakfast club will be available from 7:30am as usual on both sites.

#### Free School Meal Vouchers

All eligible parents/carers should have already received an e-mail with their link to vouchers through the National Free School Meal Voucher Scheme for w/c 18th January and w/c 25th January, if you have not received these please contact school. You will receive the vouchers through e-mail for the remaining two weeks of term - w/c 1st February & w/c 8th February by the end of this week.

Vouchers for eligible Free School Meal children during February half-term holidays (w/c 15th February)

The government has made funds available through its Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support families this winter, by offering additional help towards household costs during the half term holiday.

In County Durham, we are again making this support available as vouchers, which you can choose to spend at ASDA, Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Tesco. All eligible families will receive a voucher in the coming weeks. This is a different voucher scheme to the current one. Information on how to access these vouchers will be e-mailed to parents in the next few days

**If your child is eligible for free school meals and is attending school during this lockdown period, they will need to bring a packed lunch with them if you are receiving free school meal vouchers. This only applies to children in Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6.** Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still be entitled to an infant free school meal under the infant free school meals scheme regardless of their non-infant free school meal entitlement – they do not need to bring a packed lunch. This situation – even though it is already complicated may become even more complicated depending on government guidance. Do not worry about packed lunches (if your child needs one due to receiving vouchers) until next week. School cannot provide vouchers and free school meals from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. This will enable you to prepare and make sure all vouchers have been received.

### **Start of the Day**

Please make sure your child is in school on time at the start of the day. Start times for each year group are staggered for Health & Safety reasons and can be seen below

Reception - 9:00

Year 1 - 8:50

Year 2 - 8:45

Year 3 - 9:00

Year 4 – 8:55

Year 5 – 8:45

Year 6 – 8:40

If you have children in more than one year group bring them for the earlier start time please. Lessons begin at these start times so gates are open from 8:30 to enable children to get in to class.

Regards

*Marie-Louise Binks*

Mrs Marie-Louise Binks  
Head Teacher