

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I want to thank you for your spirit, patience and resilience yet again at such an unsettling and tricky time. The Prime Minister's announcement on Monday really heightened the seriousness of the pandemic. Despite the frustration we all felt at the timing of this, I think we were all only too relieved to be asked to "stay at home" unless absolutely necessary. I hope that you are safe, well and looking after yourselves and your families. Now that we have had some time to adjust and finalise plans for the remainder of this half term at least, and in conjunction with the DfE releasing revised guidance, I thought now would be a good time to update you with some information you need to know.

### **PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS AND VULNERABLE PUPILS**

During the period of national lockdown, schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to [vulnerable children and young people](#) and the children of [critical workers](#) only. All other children and students will learn remotely until February half term. Children with at least one parent or carer who is [listed as a critical worker](#) are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers. Thank you to all of those parents and carers who have contacted us to request a school place. We now know that we have the capacity to accommodate all of these requests and ensure numbers are kept to a minimum to ensure everyone's safety.

Moving forward, school will be open from 8.45am until 3.30pm. There will be **no after school clubs** so please make sure your child is collected from school at 3.30pm. Drop off and collection will be via the children's usual entrance, as they will remain in their usual class bubbles. This enables teaching staff to facilitate remote learning whilst delivering face-to-face learning. From next week we would like the children to wear their normal school uniform, except on their designated PE day when they can come to school in their PE kit. You are welcome to send your child into school with a packed lunch but hot dinners will resume as of next week. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 we will provide them with a Universal Infant Free School Meal as normal as will be the case for those in receipt of benefits related free school meals. Lunch options next week will be:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Monday	Pork Sausage & Mash	Quorn Sausage & Mash	Cheese Packed Lunch
Tuesday	Cheese & Tomato Pasta/Garlic Bread	Jacket Potato, Cheese & Beans	Cheese Packed Lunch
Wednesday	Roast Chicken	Quorn Roast	Cheese Packed Lunch
Thursday	Cheese & Tomato Pizza/Wedges	Jacket Potato, Cheese & Beans	Cheese Packed Lunch
Friday	Fish & Chips	Jacket Potato, Cheese & Beans	Cheese Packed Lunch

Hot lunches will be served in a 'hotbox' and eaten in bubbles. Class teachers have also asked that children bring additional warm clothing that can be kept in school to support ventilation in classrooms and that they bring some footwear (i.e. wellies), also to be kept in school, for work outdoors where necessary.

If a child still attending school at any time develops symptoms of the virus, or members of their household do, you must let us know immediately and they must self-isolate away from school for ten days as required.

## **BENEFITS RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

The DfE has stated that schools should continue to provide free school meal support to pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and who are not attending school. Children in receipt of benefits related free school meals will receive a meal as usual if in school. Those who are eligible and undertaking remote education will receive a food parcel. These will be made up by our kitchen staff through our catering service and will be available for collection from school on a Monday between 11.00am and 12.00pm. Please buzz the gate and a member of staff will bring these out to you. Unlike during the last lockdown, we have not received confirmation that the national voucher scheme is in place so cannot provide vouchers for our families. If this changes, we will of course communicate arrangements to those it affects.

## **REMOTE EDUCATION**

We would like to thank everyone for their patience, support and understanding with our remote education provision this week. With the short notice the government gave schools, it has taken a little longer than expected to implement our policy! All classes have now engaged with SeeSaw and undertaken their first series of live lessons via Zoom. Year 5 have been exceptionally supportive and patient due to Miss Barker being unwell and I must thank Mr Stevens in particular for working so hard in setting the class up on SeeSaw and in preparing the remote activities for pupils to complete. Next week, I have no doubt that routines will strengthen and if you require any further support, please contact your child's class teacher via SeeSaw or via their class email. If you need to refer to the information guide for a reminder of expectations, instructions etc. please visit the [COVID-19 Info](#) page on our school website.

We thought you may find it useful to refer to [How to get Zoom and Office on your Xbox One or PS4 | The Northern Echo](#) if you have one of the devices mentioned.

## **PRIMARY ASSESSMENTS**

The Department for Education recognises that due to the further disruption caused by school closures, primary assessments cannot continue as intended. They have therefore cancelled the statutory key stage 1 and key stage 2 tests and teacher assessments planned for summer 2021, including the key stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics. These arrangements will apply for summer 2021 only, and a full programme of primary assessments is scheduled to take place in the 2021/22 academic year.

Thank you once again for all the positivity you have shown and it just continually re-iterates what a close and caring community we are all a part of.

Look after yourselves and stay safe!

Thank you once again for your understanding.

Kind regards,



Mr D. Adams  
Head Teacher