



Five Ways Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Re: COVID-19 Lockdown Update

As school has been closed to the majority of pupils for 2 weeks now, I wanted to take this opportunity to keep you updated with what is happening at Five Ways.

Laptops from the DfE

So far, we have received 14 laptops from the Department for Education. We have already distributed them to families with the highest level of need and are in the process of applying for more laptops from the DfE as they become available. If we receive any more, we will look forward to supplying them to additional families with the highest level of need.

Home Learning

I am pleased to inform you that all year groups from Year 1 to Year 6 will be using the Google Classroom platform to set work for all pupils from Monday 18th January (if not already doing so). The following procedures will be in place to support your child with their learning at home:

- teachers are online at the time of their lessons to provide feedback for any pupils who have questions to help them progress or who are uncertain about the work being asked of them.
- lesson formats include: opportunities for pupils to revise, recap and review previous work; provide explanation and instruction on tasks which look at new knowledge or skills; clear modelling of expected work and links to videos and resources to enhance understanding.
- feedback will be given by: digitally facilitated marked quizzes, whole class feedback, tools to self-assess work or teacher feedback, so that pupils can see how they are progressing.
- live lessons will be used when teaching English and maths to engage pupils further.
- to help us keep you informed of your child's engagement with the work, registration teachers will be keeping attendance registers for their live lessons. If there appears to be a lack of engagement, parents will be contacted and support will be provided if there are any barriers to learning identified.

We are also ensuring that pupils are accessing a breadth of subjects each day and across the week. The curriculum they are following, for the majority of subjects, is what would have been taught if they were in school, so it is new content and by engaging with the work, pupils will be minimising the disruption to their education that lockdown brings.



I would like to stress at this point that teachers are working incredibly hard to adapt their resources and skills to the demands of remote teaching. Many colleagues, like you, have families of their own and are juggling with supporting their own children, caring for sick relatives, battling with their own health issues alongside their professional workload. This means that our provision is not set in stone for each subject and you may see some variability in how the work is provided for your child. Please be reassured that despite how the work is delivered, Year Leaders and Senior Leaders are checking the quality of what is produced to ensure the work remains meaningful and challenging.

Well-Being

I would like to stress the point that the well-being of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do and whilst it is important they continue with their education and do not fall too far behind, their health and happiness are the priority. The school remains open and you can contact your child's classteacher via the school office by email, if you have any concerns about your child.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Parents will have undoubtedly seen in the media the coverage regarding the quality of some food parcels distributed to families who are eligible for free school meals. I am pleased to inform you that as a school, we have decided to offer meal vouchers rather than food parcels. The office team are in the process of distributing vouchers to eligible families; these should be received at some point during this weekend. If you feel your family is eligible for free school meals, and you do not receive information from school by Monday 18th January, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Fletcher, who will investigate any issues that may have arisen.

Positive Comments – Thank You!

We are overwhelmed with the amount of support and wonderful feedback we have received from families. Every single lovely comment is shared with staff and makes such a difference for us – thank you!

Best wishes and stay safe,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

