



Thursday 23rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

WE HAVE ASKED PARENTS TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND FOR SCHOOLS TO REMAIN OPEN ONLY FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO ABSOLUTELY NEED TO ATTEND.

Keyworkers

Please note our opening times remain as **8am-4pm** on weekdays. If you require childcare because you are a keyworker, please could you kindly complete the childcare request form that Mrs Bradley sends out to support us with our planning. It is important that we know how many children we are expecting to ensure that staffing levels are adequate, and we do not exceed our limit to maintain social distancing. We do recognise that your needs may change at short notice so if this happens please just let us know by calling the school office. Thank you to everyone who has already completed their request forms for next week.

Please note that whilst we continue to offer a hot cooked meal at lunchtime, we are unable to offer the children any other snacks or meals so it would be helpful if you could ensure children have breakfast before they come to school and send them with a morning snack.

Home Learning

I have been slightly overwhelmed by the collective response to Class Dojo. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting this initiative. It has been an absolute joy to hear from you and see the incredible things that the children have been doing at home. I know (I really do) how hard it is to navigate new software and get used to different ways of working but you have done brilliantly and 91% of our school community are now engaged with this. It is hard to believe that this could be achieved in just 3 days, but we've done it and we look forward to working with you through this platform moving forward.

It has taken a huge amount of hard work and effort to get Class Dojo up and running and most of this work has been carried out by Mr Bostock. We are very lucky to have such a knowledgeable and committed member of the team supporting us on our mission and we are very grateful to him for the hours he has invested in setting this up. All of the staff have invested a significant amount of time and effort into getting the learning platform established and no doubt our learning will continue as we progress on this journey together.

If you are one of the families who have not managed to connect to Class Dojo yet, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can support you.

Class Dojo - a few pointers and requests

We have created a home learning policy (attached) to ensure that expectations regarding the use of Class Dojo are clear for all parties. In this document we have provided a guide to how much work to expect and how long should be spent on tasks. We don't want any families to feel pressurised to engage with everything provided in Class Dojo. We have put this in place to support you and not to hold you to account for your child's learning. Our primary focus is ensuring relationships between home and school continue so that children remain engaged with the staff and settle back into life at school when they do return.



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In order to help us manage Class Dojo and provide meaningful feedback to children please could you encourage them to carefully manage the volume of posts. We don't need to see absolutely everything they are doing (as lovely as this is) and we need to ensure that all children in the class receive the attention of their teachers. It would be good if most could be linked specifically to the activities set by the staff. On this note – please can you encourage children to upload their work directly to the specific task portfolios so that we can see how many children have completed each task. Work sometimes gets missed if it is not attached to the task.

Celebration Assembly

Now that we are able to see what the children are doing at home; we will restart our Friday morning celebration assemblies. These will be uploaded every Friday morning on Class Dojo and certificates will be posted to the children. Please don't forget to tune in to our first one this week!

Free School Meals

During these difficult times there are an increasing number of families experiencing financial hardship as a result of unemployment. If your circumstances have changed, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals and I would urge you to do this. Please see the letter that was sent to all parents last week with further details. Applications are still currently being processed, so it is worth your while applying. If you require support or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Free School Meal Vouchers Changing

The DFE launched their own scheme for vouchers with a provider called Edenred shortly after the Trust launched the scheme you are currently using. We are in the process of moving over to the national scheme, therefore you will receive information next week about the new process for accessing vouchers. We are very grateful to Mrs Harding for all her hard work to ensure families receive their vouchers. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with her if you experience any difficulties.

Communication with school and requests for support

We are currently experiencing a high volume of calls and emails requesting support on several matters. In order to help us deal with your enquiries more efficiently please could I ask for your help to direct them to the right place.

For general enquiries...

...such as help with food vouchers, keyworker places etc.

Please contact the main school office using the information provided at the bottom of the letterhead.

For support with technical problems...

...such as passwords and usernames or accessing the learning platforms.

Please use the link on the school website or [here](#) and complete the form as prompted. Please do not email these to the School Office as they cannot manage the volume of emails about this and something important may get missed.

For support from the teachers with home learning (content not technical).

Please send messages to the teachers through the Class Dojo platform and they will respond during working hours.

Family Support Worker

This is just a reminder that our family support worker is available to help you with any difficulties you might be facing at home. Ann James is available Tuesday- Thursday each week and can be contacted as follows: **Tel: 07824 354592 / 01480 376195** or Email: Ann.james@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Here is a link to some online advice which you may also find helpful:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/family-life/coping-practically-and-emotionally-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns these can be emailed to safeguarding@wpa.education.



Additional Advice and Support for families

The Local Authority have published a wealth of high-quality resources and information to support families on a number of different areas. You can access them by following any of the links below.

- [Home Learning](#)
- [Wellbeing](#)
- [Free Resources](#) – A selection of resources from LA advisers
- [School Competition and Projects](#)
- [Internet Safety](#)

Looking after the mental health and wellbeing of children or young people, including those with additional needs and disabilities, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

[New guidance has been published here](#)

News from school

Numbers in school have picked up again slightly following the Easter break as Keyworkers return to work with increasing hours and responsibilities. We are also welcoming more of our vulnerable children into school and continuing to share our provision with Ashbeach and Upwood. Numbers have ranged from 4-14 across the week and staff from all 3 schools have done a marvellous job of maintaining a calm and happy environment for the children. We have capped our numbers in order to try and maintain social distancing where possible. Working with children it is difficult to guarantee that the 2m is always strictly adhered to although staff do regularly remind the children and model this themselves. Everyone is working hard and doing their best.

TDET Catering have taken over the contract to provide hot school dinners in school now that our contract with Lunchtime has come to an end. The meals have been very well received by everyone and are a hot topic for discussion amongst the staff. We are thankful that we have the support of TDET to be able to provide high quality catering at a time when we all need a bit of comfort food

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

With very best wishes,
Becky Ford



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