

NEWSLETTER

8th January 2021

Happy New Year to all in the St Joseph's community. It has obviously been a very strange start to the year and we hope you are all keeping safe at home. Remote learning has proved our biggest challenge this week but after a few days of teething problems I am really proud to say our uptake in most classes between key workers in the classroom and those online - more than 90% of each class are taking part in daily learning and therefore their education will not be interrupted by the latest closures. We have distributed as many laptops as we have in school to support families who needed them, if you are still struggling, we have applied for some more devices which we can loan out, please ring the office to be put on the waiting list for these.

Key workers: A reminder for the children currently accessing school that if you are accessing on a part-time basis due to shift work etc, then on the days you are at home, you are expected to resume online learning from home. Unlike the last lockdown, the government very much expect every child to be either learning at school or learning at home daily, this is NOT optional but compulsory- our school registers are monitoring who is accessing learning daily and who is not (and completing the learning set by the teachers which continues on from where they left off in December).

Illness: If your child is ill, we still require you to contact school and let us know so we can register this on our records for absence from online learning.

Reading books: Unlike last lockdown- we are unable to loan out new reading books, exercise books or other types of equipment to try and restrict unnecessary contamination. Therefore, it is vital your child still access online reading like Bug Club as much as possible.

Free School Meals (Benefit Related): We are following government guidance with regards to the provision of FSMs for children who are remaining at home during the current Lockdown. The latest guidance is that we should continue to provide FSM support through food parcels to pupils who are eligible for benefit related FSMs. Children eligible for FSMs who are attending school will continue to receive a meal at lunch.

The first parcels were issued this week, the next parcels are due to be available on Mon 18th Jan. If your child has any dietary requirements, please speak to the school office. Parcels may be collected by any member of your support bubble. Please ensure that when collecting parcels from the school office, that you maintain social distancing. Ideally, only one person should collect the parcel.

We are awaiting further information, as to whether the government will be issuing vouchers in place of food parcels at a later date. We will be checking on this information regularly, and keep you informed. In the meantime, food parcels will be available on a weekly basis.

Help: If anyone in our school community are struggling during this time, please get in touch with homelearning@st-joseph-pri.notts.sch.uk. This can be anything from struggles with home learning to worries about finances and access to food.