

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back! Christmas seems a distant memory but I do hope you have managed to get some quality time with your families and all has been well. It is a challenging start to the new year for all with so much going on and this has certainly been a turbulent start to the term. Going forward, things will improve with the vaccine roll out and lighter nights this term.

We know that several of our parents work in the NHS and other front line services and we cannot begin to comprehend some of the situations they are finding themselves in with the pandemic and the affect it is having. You are all doing a fantastic job and we appreciate everything you are doing to help everyone. Thank you from all of us at BGL!

We are doing our best in school to play our part to support the NHS. There has been a significant increase in the number of keyworkers requesting a place in school for their child. Please only send your child to school if you really need to. The safest place to be is at home. We need to limit those attending school so teaching staff can ensure that they are able to offer high quality remote learning. We want to ensure we can continue to fully support all children at home whilst keeping school a safe environment for staff and the children of critical workers and those children who are vulnerable.

We are currently reviewing the request for places and will need to prioritise numbers if they continue to increase:

- vulnerable children
- children where both parents are key workers or children with single parents who are key workers. NHS and education key workers to take priority if needed
- Children where only one of two parents is a key worker. NHS and education key workers to take priority if needed.

The governments revised key worker list is putting schools under significant pressure so we will be reviewing our current list of Key Worker children to determine places. We need to confirm your status and proof of employment.

Remote Learning

We have hit the ground running with remote learning this week using Zoom and Seesaw. I'm sure our provision will evolve over time. Teachers are doing their best to support both key workers in school and also respond to children not in school with home learning. We know it is a challenge working with children at home. However, we have been able to support families by loaning out some of our older ICT equipment.

The government has promised that schools would be able to order laptops and tablets for disadvantaged children. At this moment in time we have been allocated 4 devices for BGL but we have been unable to order them probably due to the high demand from schools. We will keep trying.

The government has also promised that schools can request help to increase mobile data allowances for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers.

If you need to contact your child's teacher then please do so by e-mail so we can address any concerns promptly and provide the necessary support.

Miss Macdonald s.macdonald@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Mrs Kirkham s.kirkham@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Mr Ritchie sritchie@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Mrs Esa kesa@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Mrs Roberts m.roberts@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Mrs Lucas k.lucas@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Mr Smith s.smith@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Miss Woodhouse h.woodhouse@bgl.lancs.sch.uk

Free School Meals

During lockdown we will continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school, meals will be available free of charge to all infant pupils and pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals who are in school. At the moment food parcels will be made up following guidance produced by the Lead Association for Catering in Education, Public Health England and the Department of Education. We are hoping that the government will allow schools to move back to the Edenred Voucher System. Please contact the school office on office@bgl.lancs.sch.uk if you require any assistance.

Thank you to all the children, staff and parents for all your efforts this week. It has been a challenge for everyone in many different ways but onwards and upwards! Stay safe and well.

Mr Melling



School Spider

We will soon be switching over to School Spider. Please keep an eye out for important information which will be sent next week.

Primary Admissions

On-line application systems are now live :

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

for parents applying for both Primary School places for 2020-21

Closing dates (statutory) – the on-line application system closes at 11-59 pm on this date:

15th January 2021 – Primary application closing date

To avoid any disappointment, please ensure that you submit your applications on time as late applications are considered a very low priority.

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