

## Your Weekly Newsletter

Issue 209 Week Ending Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020



### URGENT UPDATE

**Please do not send your children to school unless you are an essential worker (key worker) and do not have an alternative option.**

Children should only be sent to school if parents are classed as 'key workers' i.e. their role is critical to the country's COVID-19 response AND there is no alternative childcare option.

This is not free childcare. Some schools open on an emergency basis only.

If there is a second parent, or other suitable non-vulnerable person in the household they should look after children unless families make alternative arrangements. If families do not act on this guidance, schools that are open may be overwhelmed and children will not be safe. Please be responsible and do not make a bad situation worse.



[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)



### Spring Term

Thank you for listening and for making alternative arrangements for your children to keep them safe at home and allow those that need school places the availability. Those that have used this facility have been wonderfully behaved and coped very well with the different teams of staff. We have had mixed aged groups ranging from Ducklings up to Year 6, yet they have all got along and worked well together.

We have opened school at 08:30 each day this week and have closed at 17:30 providing snacks, school lunches for those children that have needed to be in school and for families to collect along with keeping the children safe. Each day school has been opened up by our site supervisor, Mr Luty. I am in school every weekday from 10:30 and will stay until closure to lock the school site safely. I have organised my team of staff to come into school for shifts of four and a half hours either in the morning or afternoon. This step has been taken to eliminate their risk of picking up/further spreading the COVID 19 infection. I have been in touch with our local schools to arrange a merge where we will each host this childcare facility on a weekly rota. Both Carleton St Hilda's and St Chad's wish to join forces. We are to continue providing the care at our school site for the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> March and will also have children from the other two schools. To tie in with the other school's opening times for these child care sessions we are to open at 08:30 and close at 16:30. For the week beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> April Carleton St Hilda's will provide the care on the Monday-Thursday, closing for Good Friday. The week beginning the 13<sup>th</sup> April Poulton St Chad's

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will host the care from the Tuesday through to the Friday as they are to be closed for Easter Monday. When we are not hosting the childcare provision, Carleton Green will be closed. I, along with all my teachers can be contacted via email should you need to be in touch. It is vital that we know which key workers are needing the childcare so that we may notify the other schools. We will need to share information with the other schools such as your contact details, any details of allergies or health needs your child may have along with whether you have a paid school lunch, packed lunch or Free School Meal.

### Free School Meals – latest position

The DfE is looking to establish a national voucher scheme for pupils eligible for free school meals in the near future. In the meantime, Lancashire County Council is arranging a further delivery of meals for all eligible families and agreeing a way of distributing these through community hubs rather than individual schools. We will update you as soon as possible on the arrangements. We will be requesting an accurate figure for FSM eligibility for your school, so that deliveries across the county reflect local need.

Free School Meals are provided for parents that are in receipt of Universal Credit, Income Support, Income based Employment and Support Allowance, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit. We are hoping that soon we will have vouchers for those entitled for FSM but until we do and your child is not currently coming to school due to our opening just for Key Workers' children; please order them for collection as you have this week. A text was sent out earlier today for parents to ensure we were informed by 14:00 so that we can notify the Lancashire County Council. You may collect these packs from school at 11:30 on Monday. Last week they were rather heavy as they are to last the week so if walking, be prepared!

The guidelines Government have asked that we follow, will have had both positive and negative impacts on us all. I truly hope that you are all managing to get essential food items and are able to stay well. I like many, am not able to see my parents nor live with my extended family members and so I know first-hand that at times this situation is challenging. As I am now in school on my own I have had to get to grips with a few aspects of school life previously carried out by others. So, I apologise if texts are not worded as normal or this newsletter doesn't arrive as

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it typically does. I have found though, that being able to take my daily exercise before coming to school is meaning my training is absolutely on track and hopefully I will be super fit for the delayed London Marathon in October.

We realise it is not easy home educating your children. If you can carry out some home learning each day that would be wonderful. Allowing them to play, to help in the garden, bake, watch television as well as factor in time to play on some sort of technology are all also great ways to keep them occupied. Ideally, we ask if you can, to please keep up with reading daily, carrying out some written work along with keeping knowledge of maths going (especially number bonds and multiplication facts!) The home learning link on our website will be updated every week for each class to give you some age appropriate ideas of what you can do.

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**SCHOOL CLOSURES**

We are working closely with individuals to allow their children to be able to access online learning resources whilst at home.

We are offering to look at any student/teacher laptops or PCs to ensure they are up to date and capable to support remote learning.

This will be a free service whilst the current school closures are in place.

We want to ensure every child has access to educational resources and we understand the importance of technology at this time.

As you can appreciate like most companies we have limited resources at the moment but we will help if we can help.

Jack is the main point of contact in the first instance so please email [jack@ljtsystems.co.uk](mailto:jack@ljtsystems.co.uk) to check availability. Please include your details so we can call you back.

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I have been contacted by an IT company based in Bispham who asked that I share some information regarding a free service they are offering local Students and Teachers.

As you will see from the flyer below they are looking at supporting local Students/Teachers with making sure their personal laptops/computers are going to be able to be used for home learning.

If any of our families are struggling with their laptops running slow or just generally need to be updated they have said they are happy to help. This is a free service while the school closures are in place.

Thank you for your continued support in and out of school, Susan McGrath, Headteacher.