

May 1st 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

VE Day bank holiday

Friday May 8th is technically a bank holiday to mark the occasion of the 75th anniversary of VE day. We will not be setting any work on that day but would encourage students to watch the events on TV and mark the occasion at home. We have also decided that we will not set specific lessons for May 7th either. Instead, we will send out information about VE day which will allow students to do research and engage in some creative activities whether that be making posters, bunting, 1940s food or creative writing. We are asking students to email in their work or pictures of what they have done.

If you are a critical worker and require a place for your child in school on Friday May 8th could you let me know please by Tuesday 5th May so that I can plan staffing if we need to be open.

Free School Meal Applications

We are very aware that in these difficult times there is likely to be an increase in the number of students becoming eligible for free school meals. If you think you are now eligible please do check on the Lancashire Council website and make an application there <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/> The Council will automatically notify us of any students to be added to the free school meal list and we will then be able to order the £15 per week food vouchers.

Free School Meal Vouchers

There was an item on the BBC news yesterday highlighting some of the challenges schools are facing with the company providing the vouchers for free school meals. Please be rest assured we have ordered vouchers for all those on our free school meal list. Please do check junk and spam email folders but be aware that any delay in vouchers arriving is due to the company not school. Please do let us know if you are not receiving anything and certainly get in contact if there are immediate and real difficulties funding food for your children.

Safeguarding

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers and how to act safely when using the internet. With so much time now being spent on line the need for this just increases.

Staff and Governors have completed a number of workshops with National Online Safety and we would encourage parents/carers also to complete an interactive online workshop. The course can be taken at your own convenience and covers:

- Information about online dangers and the newest platforms
- What online risks to look out for and how to protect your child

Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account. You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown. Once you have registered, you will be able to access the "Online Safety for Parents and Carers" course and National Online Safety's Resources (which includes 50+ online platform

guides on the latest social media channels and games). This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

<https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/Carrhill>

I have asked all mentors to contact all the students in their mentor groups in all years and ask for a reply – just to check in and make sure everyone is ok.

Finally

Thank you for all the work that is being done at home by students and by yourselves to support them in their learning. These remain challenging times but they may become even more challenging when plans are drawn up for the gradual reopening of schools. We may learn more about that from the Prime Minister next week but for now schools remain closed apart from being open for the vulnerable children with social workers and those of key workers. Staff will continue to send work home by Show My Homework and we will produce work packs for those families we know have no computer access at home.

Please continue to stay safe

Best wishes

Andrew Waller
Headteacher