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# COVID-19 partial school closure update

## Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and you all are continuing to keep safe and well during these most unusual times. Today marks the start of the seventh week since all schools were directed to close and although there continues to be much speculation in the media, I do not yet have a clear indication of when schools will be asked to reopen again. We are all missing the children very much and school feels peculiar without the familiar hubbub of Endeavour life. I look forward to welcoming the children back as soon as I am able but in the meantime the teachers and I are very much enjoying our telephone catch-ups and the fantastic work posted on the class teams pages. Thank you for continuing to engage with and support school in this way.

## **Home Learning**

To try and reduce the inevitable impact that such a prolonged period of time away from school will have on children's learning, we continue to produce weekly home learning packs covering all areas of the curriculum. I am extremely grateful for the commitment of Endeavour's teachers who work tirelessly each week to source and create such a wide range of activities designed to both reinforce and extend our children's learning. They have received praise from the Trust for the continued high quality of the resource they provide. Home learning packs can be accessed in 3 ways: via the 'Home Learning' tab on the school website (www.endeavouracademy.org.uk/home-learning), through the class teams pages you have been talked through by staff on the phone or, for those who prefer a printed pack, these can be collected from the school office at your convenience. Please continue to motivate and encourage your child to complete the work set each week. I cannot emphasise enough how essential this is in order to keep your child's learning on track and help ease their transition back into school when the time comes.

#### Remaining in contact.

Remaining in regular contact with our children and families is central to our closure strategy at Endeavour and we carry this out mainly through class teams and by phone. You may receive a call from the school number or, more often than not, from a blocked number or no caller ID. If you are unable to answer we will leave a message and where possible, give a time when we will call back. If you want to contact school for any reason the school office is open to receive calls between 9am and 3.30pm each day. Alternatively, you can email school if you prefer through the contact tab on the school website.

## **Free School Meal Vouchers**

I am pleased to share that the free school meal voucher scheme is now up and running and many of you have received and redeemed your first e-codes. This is a Government led scheme providing vouchers to the value of £15 per week per child for eligible families in receipt of benefits related free school meals. If you are not currently part of the scheme but think this might apply to you, select 'free school meals' under the parent tab on the school website (www.endeavouracademy.org.uk/parents/free-school-meals) to check your eligibility.





Once your eligibility is confirmed we can arrange for vouchers to be emailed to you weekly throughout the time school is closed.

### **Resources on website**

There are many resources offering a range of advice and support for families during closure available under the home learning tab on the school website (<u>www.endeavouracademy.org.uk/home-learning</u>). Currently there are resources for supporting the mental and emotional wellbeing of both children and adults, menu and recipe ideas from Tameside's children's nutrition team as well as a signpost to a parenting helpline. This area of the website will continue to be updated as new resources and services become available.

## **Core Values**

Your child will be able to tell you about the CORE values of commitment, opportunity, respect and excellence that underpin and drive day-to-day life at Endeavour Academy. It is helpful to remain true to these values to support us through these challenging times and beyond. Please encourage your child to **commit** to continuing their learning each day through making the most of the **opportunities** provided through our home learning provision and strive for **excellence** in all they do. Help them to remember to make the most of this unprecedented situation and show how much they **respect** and value themselves, their families, their friends and their community by staying home and staying safe.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Carol Rhodes (Headteacher)

