



Mereside Primary Academy
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Head of School: Ms S. Upton

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, our first full week of mixing remote learning and key worker/vulnerable working has gone fairly smoothly and hopefully any issues have been ironed out. Remember we are always here to support with any google classroom queries. As we have been juggling many plates this week, we know that you are too. Home schooling is not easy so please don't be harsh on yourself! Everyone is doing their best, in school and at home, but at times that may not always be perfect. That's okay.

Lockdown Updates:

- The latest figures I have at the time of writing are the ones published on Wednesday but cases are still rising unfortunately in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde. Although we are nowhere near the rates of some other areas of the country the rates in Blackpool are now the same as where we were during the first lockdown. With other places in the North West beginning to mirror the rates in the South it is likely that the new variant is now working its way up the country. With this in mind can I please remind parents to only send children of key workers in on days when it is impossible for someone in your support bubble to be with them. The safety of children and staff is paramount.
- Bubbles through school are now nearly full and we only have a few sessions available in certain phases. Again, please don't send your child into school unless it is vital and your role is critical in the work place.
- The same rules apply as was in September for drop off and pick up at school. Please ensure that only one adult is on site to collect from school, masks must be worn at all times on site unless you have an exemption (I know we have had copies of the exemption from some parents) and can we finally please plea that you social distance in line with government advice.
- Safeguarding our children online with remote learning – All families should now have received our letter and advice around safeguarding your child online. If you have not seen this please check on parent app. If you haven't got it please phone school and we'll send another out.
- Please remember that it is important that remote learning is the same as a normal school day. Children should be up and dressed and shouldn't be on their phones. Please see the remote learning guidelines sent out earlier in the week.
- I know most of you know now but please remember that the phones in the office are now only monitored till 12.30pm. However, please remember that you can send us a message via email, either to the office or to the teacher email address.

Key Questions and Answers:

Why do you keep phoning me?

Lockdown this time is very different to last March. This time the government have had time to put in place a framework for school closures. Basically, there is now an expectation that all children carry out lessons every day and that work is handed in for schools to mark and assess. If we do not see your child on google meet and have received no work for that day, we do need to phone to check in. It is like any other school day, if there is an absence, we need to phone to find out why and check all is okay. If we cannot get hold of you on the phone for two days running then it will be passed to our Pupil Welfare officer who will follow up with a phone call/visit.

Basically, if your child's work is handed in each day, we will not have to phone you every day! As you can imagine this is also putting staff under tremendous pressure to complete remote

learning lessons, teach in school, mark and assess and complete phone calls home every day. It is not their fault (nor schools!) that they are having to phone. The government have just set it up very differently to last time and there is an expectation for KS2 to complete 4 hours of work a day and KS1/EY to complete 3 hours.

Can I phone school if my child is stuck on their work?

Please don't! Depending on the phase, teachers are either live on google classroom so you can just log on and ask them or email us on the teacher email and we will be in touch.

Applying for a Primary School Place for September 2021:

If you have a child starting school in September 2021 then please don't forget that you must apply for a place before the **end of today**. Similarly, please spread the word to anyone you know who has a child of this age. Our admission number for next year is 40. This year we had more than this so if applications forms are not completed you may find that we are full by the time the council allocate the left over places to those who forgot to apply.

Search for Blackpool Council applying for a school place for access to the online form.

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Ms S Upton
Headteacher