

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021



Dear Families,

### **Latest Guidance: National Lockdown**

New variant coronavirus is spreading rapidly. A surge in cases is placing the NHS under considerable strain. UK Government has announced a third national lockdown. The single most important action we can take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. **Visit our websites for updates.**

### **Limited onsite education**

Schools are closed until half-term subject to review by UK Government. We continue to offer limited onsite education for children of critical workers and other priority groups. Thank you for respecting this offer and only using it when truly needed. **We must remain the last resort** – the more people in school, the greater the risk. If you wish to access onsite education, contact the school office.

### **Remote education**

We have resumed remote education for all young people. **We will provide no less than 3 hours a day for primary pupils and 5 hours a day for secondary students.** We want to work with all our families to minimise disruption to your child's education. Thank you for all you are doing at home.

UK Government has provided schools with over 560,000 devices to support remote education. We want all children to access the wealth of resources and opportunities the internet brings. We are working hard to help all families with the move online. We are improving our offer of laptops, routers and support so no child is left 'digitally disadvantaged'. Contact us for more information.

### **Remote support**

Support with **free school meals** is currently being provided through packed lunches or food parcels. UK Government will soon confirm a National Voucher Scheme. No child should go hungry whilst schools are closed. Also, if you are concerned about your child's **mental health or engagement with learning**, there is a range of support on offer. If you feel like you need support, please contact us.

All **secondary examinations** and **primary tests** have been cancelled. We understand youngsters will want to know more. The government will announce their replacement after a period of consultation.

We remain fully engaged with other initiatives to support children, young people and families throughout this pandemic. Further information will follow on the national tutoring programme, academic mentoring and our engagement with the coronavirus testing programme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank for all your support and kind words – the recognition of our work is greatly appreciated by many colleagues. These are undoubtedly challenging times but we are still here for you and your children.

We remain in your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Blakelock".

Barry Blakelock  
Executive Head

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