

Monday, May 04, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families remain safe and all well. This is our weekly communication to ensure that everyone is kept up to date.

### **School Closure arrangements**

There is no further information regarding reopening of schools other than confirmation by the Secretary of State for Education this week that schools are likely to reopen in phases.

Unity Academy is closed on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May as per our published term dates as this is a Bank Holiday. If key worker children require support for this day, please see the published information on the Blackpool Council website.

The academy will be open during half term for children of key workers and vulnerable students (i.e. those who are currently eligible to attend) from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive). Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May is also a Bank Holiday and as such the academy will be closed and arrangements are as noted above.

### **Free School Meals**

I hope parents are happy with the updated hamper contents. We worked hard with Chartwells (our catering provider) to try and provide an offer that provided for at least 5 meals within the defined costs available. I would like to put on record my thanks to the catering team who have been outstanding during this period of time. The flexibility and commitment shown has been excellent and our very grateful thanks are extended to the team.

### **Work at home**

We continue to receive requests for work packs and are responding to these as quickly as we can with reduced staffing. If you do require physical copies of any work, please complete this on the form on the website and staff will support with this. From Monday an additional member of staff has been added to our rota to support with coordinating requests for work.

I would also like to repeat the message from last week. With two young children in my own home, I understand the pressures of working from home, trying to ensure that they are completing set work and also managing the anxiety and pressures that this situation brings. Please try and encourage children whilst avoiding creating unnecessary stress and anxiety. We are trying to call every parent and child weekly. Please just flag up your worries in this call and we will try our best to support. We know your children and we will work with you to find a solution that works for your child and the rest of the household.

### **IT access for certain students**

FCAT and the local authority have placed orders for the IT devices offered by the Government. Once these arrive we will work with FCAT and the council to issue them.

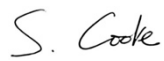
### **Unity in the Community**

Thank you to everyone who donated to Lucas following my letter last week. He has now passed his fundraising target for Trinity Hospice but is still keen to learn more and raise more – should you feel able to you are still able to sponsor Lucas through this link

(<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lucas-algar>)

Thank you once again for your support at this time, if you have any queries which are not covered by this letter, drop us an email on [generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk) and we will respond.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Cooke  
Headteacher