

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Online Learning

Firstly, a huge thank you for your support and patience this week with online learning. We understand the demands that online learning has on parents and that 2Do's cannot always be completed within the set time/day. We know you are all doing your best in difficult circumstances. Live sessions commenced this week to support children with their home learning - children can message their teacher via the blog if they cannot attend and require any support. Teachers have also conducted telephone calls this week, to parents of any child not accessing their online learning – I hope these have been useful in getting you started. If you do require any further support please do call or email school and your child's class teacher will give you a call back.

Devices

Just a reminder that children are able to loan devices from school if required, please email school to log your request. We have loaned out over 50 devices this week to enable ALL our children to have access to online learning. To manage expectations and demand, please note that devices will be distributed on Tuesdays only each week.

Workbooks

The Department for Education (DfE) asks that school promote online learning as the most efficient way of delivering learning closely linked to what children would be doing if in school. However, I do understand that some parents have asked for workbooks to supplement the online offer. We are happy to supply Year Group workbooks to any parent who requests this. To manage expectations and demand, please note that workbooks will be distributed on Wednesdays only each week.

Critical worker provision

We have seen a 200% increase in the requests for critical worker provision compared with the last time school closed. To ensure the safety of staff and pupils, all applications are scrutinised by a team of Bridgewater staff against the Government's guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Children who attend this provision will complete the online learning set by their teacher just like their peers are doing at home.

Please note the Government suggests that 'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'. Please keep our staff and the children who absolutely need to attend safe by only using this provision if no other provision is available and you are unable to safely look after your child at home due to the nature of your work. Children should only attend school on the days provision is required -when you are undertaking your role as a critical worker.

Free School Meal (FSM)

An update from the DfE:

During the period of national lockdown, schools will continue to receive their expected funding for benefits-related free school meals. Schools should continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Schools should also continue to provide free school meal support to pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are not attending school.

The government have announced that the national free school meals voucher scheme will be relaunched on Monday 18th January, meaning that each eligible child not attending school will receive a supermarket voucher to the value of £15 per week. Edenred, the company which ran the national voucher programme last year, has been tasked with running it again during this period of school closures. Edenred have advised schools that orders are being processed in a staged approach to manage the demand on their systems, therefore it may be that you won't receive your eCode until the end of the week.

Please Note: voucher eCodes will be emailed directly to you so it is important that your email address is correct. If you wish to know what email address we have registered for you, please check your ParentApps account or email the school office on bridgwater.primaryschool@salford.gov.uk to confirm this.

Supporting Children's Well Being

The Anna Freud Centre (AFC) has set up an online resource library with a vast range of information, activities and guidance to support the wellbeing of students, staff and parents / carers

www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources

All the resources available across the AFC website are available here and you can use the search and filters either individually or combined to find what you need, such as:

- [Coronavirus support](#): Guidance and practical tools to support children's mental health
- [Letting go & future plans](#): activities to encourage children to accept and let go of the things they missed out on in 2020, and to look forward to things they can do in the future
- [Tracking my feelings](#): simple emotion and activity tracker is designed to help individual children to identify trigger points and positivity in their day-to-day life.
- [Mental health awareness days \(2021\)](#): guide for schools

Finally, please find a link to this week's 'Special Mention' video.

https://youtu.be/4JR_zm-z9BE

If you need any help or support, please contact school via telephone or email.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Henderson