

Lockdown: Information to Parents/Carers

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, this is certainly not the start to term any of us would have wanted! Our Black Horse Hill staff were very excited to be welcoming the children back to school so that we could continue to build upon the children's achievements from the autumn term. I know many of you will also be feeling slightly apprehensive with the prospect of home-learning. However, we are a strong school community and we have done it before so we can do it again.

In my letter today I will try and outline the arrangements for the coming weeks. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact school via email or telephone.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable children

The safest place for children and families to be at present is at home with as little social contact as possible. These emergency critical worker places are intended for families who have no other adult at home or a support bubble to look after children and who are immediately required in the response to this virus. If you are in any doubt please refer to the government guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have now collated the number of children requiring a critical worker place. The children have been placed into year group bubbles. Each bubble will be taught by a teacher and teaching assistant and the learning will be closely matched to the remote learning set for children working at home. We accept that you may not require provision every day but we do ask that you keep us informed of the days that you require via email. Please make sure we know your requirements by 3pm on a Thursday for the following week.

All our critical worker children can now begin and end their school day at the same time due to reduced numbers. Critical worker children should arrive at 8.45am and be collected at 3.05pm using their normal access/exit doors.

Uniform should be worn. Children will be provided with a hot meal or parents/carers can choose to send in a packed lunch. Over the next few days it may not be the usual published menu as our school cook is using up perishable food stuffs to avoid food waste.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer before and after school provision until further notice and I apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause.

Remote learning

Since the first lockdown this is an area which we have improved immensely. Recommendations from parents/carers from our remote learning survey have been taken on board and included in our remote learning provision for this time. You have my reassurance that we will do our very best to ensure that your child receives a quality education over the coming weeks.

Early Years children (F1 and F2) will be using Tapestry and KS1 children (Yr1 and 2) will be using See-Saw. You should already have your child's log in and password details for these platforms. Reading books will be allocated on the Active Learn, Bug Club site.

Remote learning has been posted for every year group this week.

From the week commencing 11th January the following will be uploaded to the learning platforms:

- A **weekly timetable** of learning activities which matches closely the curriculum children would be accessing in school.
- A daily video which explains and outlines the learning for the day
- Learning posted daily
- Phonics lessons and reading books will be tailored to children's ability
- Teaching videos to explain concepts either from approved learning sites (DfE, Oak Academy, BBC Bite size) or your child's class teacher
- Twice weekly zoom teacher/class catch up sessions

Unlike the first lockdown we now have the facility for children to return their work to the class teacher. Feedback will be given by class teachers to any work submitted.

It is of paramount importance that children engage in our remote learning programme. In partnership with you, we were beginning to narrow any learning gaps that had occurred as a result of the last lockdown. We need to do our utmost to keep

the children on track with their learning. Our staff will be contacting parents/carers of children who we can see have not engaged with the remote learning and offering support.

Remote Learning Policy

This booklet provides parents/carers with guidance on how to support children at home during a school closure or if your child or child's class is required to self-isolate. This has recently been updated. If you are having difficulty using any of the learning platforms then this guide particularly is useful and you will find it on our school website.

Zoom Protocol

During this lockdown we feel that all measures have been put in place to safeguard the children when using Zoom. Each teacher will schedule a Zoom meet on their weekly timetable. Parents/carers will be sent a link to the email that we have on our school system. Parents/carers then have to click the link to access the class Zoom catch up.

In order for these Zoom sessions to be successful, the following guidelines must be adhered to. If any of the following guidelines are not met, it is possible that your child's class teacher may terminate the sessions.

1. Parents/Carers must inform school if they do not consent to Zoom sessions taking place online.
2. There will be two members of staff in each zoom catch up.
3. All Zoom sessions are timetabled in advance and your child's class teacher will email out all appropriate links prior to the start of each Zoom session.
4. Zoom sessions should take place in a family room, such as the dining room or lounge, not in a bedroom.
5. Children should dress and behave appropriately, showing respect for others, as they would for a classroom based lesson.
6. Zoom sessions are not to be recorded by either party.
7. Zoom sessions are optional and as a result parents/carers do not need to inform teachers if their child cannot attend.
8. Cameras must be turned on so we can verify the identity of all participants.
9. Zoom sessions are for the children and not for parents/carers to raise any issues.

Communication with staff

During school hours (Mon-Fri, 9.00-15.30), you can email your child's class teacher to share learning and to ask for advice about your child's learning. The class teacher will aim to respond to you as soon as possible within school hours.

F1 - Mrs Honeybourne- shoneybourne@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

F2BE Mrs Bancroft- sbancroft@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

F2SLP Mrs Lucan- snolan@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr1 Mr Young- chrisyoung@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr1 Mr Hamm dhamm@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr2 Mrs Astbury astbury@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Yr2 Miss Murphy- tmurphy@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Mrs McLeod- rachel@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

Free School Meals

We will continue to provide food parcels for pupils who are in receipt of FSM and unable to attend school. Our school office staff will have contacted you about arranging collection.

Mobile Phone Data

Before the Christmas holidays I ordered 50 SIM cards which provide free mobile broadband data for mobile phones or ipads. If you would like one of these cards to assist with remote learning then please contact school.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Julie Morris