



Thurlaston CE (Aided) Primary School

Teaching and living the Christian way of life

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a crazy start to the new year. We were fully prepared on Monday for all the children to start back on Tuesday and were assured on Monday morning all the children would be back. Staff enjoyed Fire Warden training so even more staff are trained in this important aspect.

Then Monday night at 8pm the national lockdown was announced. We tried to sort things out as quickly as we could and are still awaiting the official full guidance to be published. Thank you for bearing with us this week.

There may be changes to the way things run once the full guidance is published and also following governor meetings. This lockdown is very different to the first one in March last year as the guidance is very different. We already have 35 children in school and more could be entitled. Should more request places we will need to prioritise based on need (not who asked first) if numbers breach our risk assessment.

Teaching and support staff are needing to do two very different roles and in effect are being expected to do two full time jobs at the same time - teach a class in school and teach a class at home through remote learning. Please bear with us as we try to manage this.

In School Pupils - Pupils in school should attend at the normal times and in school uniform. The school is running 3 bubbles as it did for the autumn term but they are smaller. Children who are vulnerable should be in school. Children of critical workers should also be in school but should demand exceed our risk assessments this group may need to be limited to those with the most need. For example those with both parents who are critical workers would receive priority. The governors will make an agreed priority list next week. School meals will be provided by School Food Services as normal but they may not be able to do the menu exactly as published. Pupils in Class 3 and Class 4 will need to pay for their meals as normal. The milk supplier is not delivering (they should have contacted you about this). The fruit supplier for KS1 is also not delivering. Peripatetic music lesson will not be happening onsite. Other assessments such as Educational Psychology should still take place. Miss Bilson will be doing PE as normal for class 3 bubble and class 4 bubble. Please ensure indoor and outdoor PE kit is in school.

Please note that we need to keep the integrity of these bubbles and it is vital that these keep Covid free. Please follow the National Lockdown Guidance when out of school. If there is a confirmed case in a bubble this will mean that the bubble will need to isolate for 10 days. If your child is not attending please notify the school using normal processes. If you or your child tests positive please email details to covid@thurlaston.leics.sch.uk.

We have had donated 100 handy size bottles of hand sanitiser. We will send each child in school with a bottle home next week unless you tell us you don't want one.

At Home Pupils - Teachers will publish work on Class Dojo. They are still getting used to it so bear with them. We are required to publish at least 3 hours of work. Please read the instructions carefully. Reception children need a lot of hands on learning and “play” which is detailed as part of the work. This is just as important as the rest of it. Teachers will aim to publish maths and English each day but other work may be published all on one day but may be for the whole week. It is not a race to finish it all. We are required to give feedback at least once a week - this could be whole class feedback. Please bear in mind that the teachers are all teaching in school and this is on top of that. If everyone comments and writes about everything that is done that would be a great many hours work. Teachers or support staff may comment on work. We are obliged to keep a record of engagement with the work and robustly address families where the children are not doing the work. We will direct you to PE related activities. This will make up 2 hours per week. We will be posting two assemblies from Mr Eardley and these are an important part of our curriculum. Rev Taylor and Pastor Peter Harrison will also provide some assemblies through the lockdown. **Pupils not entitled to a school place** but entitled to a means tested school meal can be provided with a packed lunch each day to be collected from the office: please ask the office to order one.

Please keep safe by following the National Lockdown Guidance. Please inform your teacher if your child is ill and unable to work through Class Dojo.

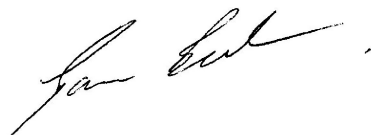
Further information for everyone

Nearly all school staff are in school fulltime with only a couple for individual reasons working from home.

The governors are meeting next week to discuss the rapid testing of staff and pupils in school that the government announced. At the moment this is on hold for primary schools. If you wish the governors to have your opinion please send it to the clerk of governors at office@thurlaston.leics.sch.uk to be taken to the meeting. Please remember this will be optional if it happens and will be by consent only.

The KS2 SATs have been cancelled but they will require a teacher assessment for each pupil for the next school. We are advised to use testing in school to support this. We have already purchased revision guides and created a revision timetable. This will form part of their weekly work. We will be in contact to arrange to get the guides to you before Friday of next week.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Beetham