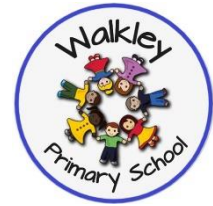


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'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

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Coronavirus Update: Wednesday 20th January

Dear Parents / Carers

It is difficult to believe that we are only half way through Week 3 of Spring Term 1. What a start to 2021 including a week of unpacking (the last crates go tomorrow), a National Lockdown announced at 8 p.m. on the first day back; whilst preparing for new classrooms, procedures, staggered times and drop offs, lunchtime/playtimes organization, remote learning, establishing staffing availability and rotas, establishing Nursery numbers and key/worker vulnerable places; organizing 90 Free School Meals and delivery of hampers; ordering FSM vouchers, squabbling with the DFE for devices, staff trying to teach their own children as well as those in school, plus a bit of snow thrown in for good measure!

For your information, Week 2 is working as smoothly as Week 1. We have the teaching team on a two-week rota system; those in school and those delivering the remote learning from home, so the children are happily working with a different set of staff this week. Next week the teams will swap over so every child will be accessing their learning in school with the Week 1 staff again.

Planning and organizing the return of keyworker / vulnerable families to school

If there is an adult in your family that is working from home you should not apply for / accept a school offer for a place on these days. It is imperative that the number of children on site is kept to a minimum, so if you have alternatives you should use these as a priority. The message from the Government is to stay at home if at all possible to support our NHS by lowering the risk of transmission of the virus. **Thank you to all those parents who are supporting the reduction of pupils on site and therefore our immediate Walkley community.**

Length of lessons

The learning diet that your children are receiving in school and at home, is very similar to the learning they receive when we are fully open, except we pack a bit more learning in! The teaching is intentionally intense and pacy as this matches our school practice, engages pupils in their setting and gives you a window into the way our pupils learn and are taught. The beauty of remote learning at home is that the learning can be paused or repeated to suit the way that the children are engaging in the tasks. The estimated time of lessons is approximately an hour for KS1 and KS2 pupils, except for guided reading which is 30 mins. This will all depend on your child and their co-operation on any given day!!

Pupils who attend part time

You will have become aware that all the learning is linked as teaching is designed to build on concepts taught the previous day and that although you receive daily lessons, we are actually providing a five-day learning package and writing is on a 7 – 10 day connected learning cycle. It is important that all part time pupils access the full week of learning in a either at home or at school, as days off will cause children to have learning gaps that will make the rest of the week more difficult to access. Children who attend on a part time basis can bring work done at home into school for continuity.

Google forms

We have had some teething problems with Google forms and are responding as quickly as we can. It appears that around 80% of pupils are accessing learning at home and are using Google forms to send work to their teachers and respond to work set. It is proving to be a fabulous tool to share learning and information between school and home even if we are still tweaking at our end.

Zoom

It is our school policy that we will not use Zoom in school. This is for safeguarding reasons as we cannot guarantee what surprises may be shared via Zoom meetings in homes, so we have elected not to use this. For parents who are concerned that their children cannot see their peers, you can always arrange private conversations at home during late afternoon or early evening.

Online safety

We ask pupils and parents to respect online safety and that pupils where possible should work in the same room as an adult. As there has been an increase in online learning and the need for active screen time, you may wish to limit other activities and time spent on devices for other reasons during the evening. Good luck with that one!!

Punctuality

Thank you for your punctuality this week both at drop off and pick-up times. We have a skeleton staff based at school at any one time, so it is extremely difficult to release people to bring children into school. In the event of a late arrival, please ring the school office on arrival and someone from the team will come and collect your child as soon as we can. Our staff leave anywhere between 3.20 and 3.45 p.m. so that the full cleaning team can be on site to prepare for the next day, so punctuality at the end of the day is appreciated too.

Parking

The staff car park will be moved to half way down the main drive where the cabins were previously. It is imperative that staff and construction workers who have already begun Phase 2 of the project, have access and egress from the site at all times. The Phase 2 construction team will be using the previous staff car park at the top of the hill from Monday 25th January.

Telephones

We think that issues with our telephone system have been rectified. Thank you for your patience. Please be reassured that if we do continue to have problems, you can contact us at enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk where we will respond as quickly as we can.

FSM vouchers

We have processed all the relevant information required by Edenred regarding vouchers and have ordered £15 per week for every eligible child for the 4 weeks up to half term break. We have also requested vouchers from SCC for the period wk. beginning 4th and 11th January. Eligible families will hear directly from SCC about these vouchers. An individual Email regarding FSM has been sent to relevant families.

Nursery

Nursery will be open as usual. If parents still want their child (ren) to come to Nursery, pupils are to attend at their usual times. Please notify the school if you wish to continue to attend Nursery via enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk so that we can provide staff accordingly.

Remote Learning

We received another 26 devices from the DFE today. We have managed to provide 6 families with devices to access remote learning and we are now in the process of putting Walkley resources onto the new devices, which means they will be ready for next week. If you have completed the survey or contacted us through enquiries your details have already been added to the list. Thank you to those parents who have contacted us saying that are willing to provide us with laptops if they are suitable. Please contact the school office if you think that you can help

Thank you again for your patience. Stay safe and well.

Val Sian and the Walkley Team.