

Monday, 4 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience in allowing us to unpick the latest government documents which detail school arrangements for the next two weeks. School places are available and limited to families where both parents' work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response. This means the remaining children will be accessing learning remotely from home.

Our Senior Leadership Teams and staff members have spent the last few days ensuring that:

- we have a safe provision for those staff and children who will be attending this week
- we will be able to provide high quality remote virtual learning for children at home
- we have access to lunches for all pupils who are entitled to them

We are keen that the education of your child and those children working remotely at home, are as unaffected as possible. For this reason, we will be linking both groups together via Google classroom. This platform allows our children to log on and be supported by staff within a virtual classroom environment, regardless of whether they are at school or at home. In the case of Nursery and Reception children Tapestry will continue to be the platform that is used to set and submit work.

Remote virtual learning

- From Tuesday 5th January, learning for all pupils will be through Google Classroom (Years 1-6) and Tapestry (Reception and Nursery)
- All children already have login details to access Google Classroom & Tapestry
- Learning will be set on a daily basis by class teachers – this will be live but will be recorded and posted so you can access this later if needed
- At least three learning activities will be set each day and we encourage children to access and engage as much as they can
- With many families having multiple children, we know that it will be challenging for you to access remote learning. Through our mixture of uploaded tasks and live check ins, we hope there will be enough variety to help all families plan their days and engage
- We have attached a parent guide to support you with accessing Google Classroom
- All children have logged into this whilst in school so should be able to show you how it works, however, there are bound to be some technological hiccups along the way and we ask for your patience as we iron out any issues in the days ahead.
- If you have problems with logging into Google classroom please contact the school office from Tuesday 5th Jan (9am)

Loaned devices

Some families have expressed the need for a laptop or Chromebook to work on. The school has a limited number of devices that can be loaned. **More information will follow tomorrow** about how eligible families can come to collect these.

Free School Meals

Children who are eligible for a free school meal (not the universal infant free school meal) will be eligible for support during the next two weeks. Our caterers Chartwells will again provide hampers for each of these children. **More information will follow tomorrow** about how eligible families can come to collect these.

Support Line

If you are worried about the Mental Health and Wellbeing of you or your family, if you require support and advice about your child's behaviour at home, or if you are isolated and need a familiar person to talk to, our wonderful pastoral teams have reopened a dedicated phone number for each school which will be operating Monday to Friday from 9.00am until 3:30pm. Please send a text with your name and the name of your child/children. Staff will respond to the text by calling you back within 24 hours. Where a text is received on a Friday, expect to be called the following Monday. If it is urgent and you need a quicker response, please type URGENT at the beginning of the text. Thank you to our amazing Pastoral Leads who have set this great service up.

- Beechfield - 07535 177903
- Cherry Tree – 07535 177 881
- Laurance Haines – 07960 014104

Throughout today staff have been phoning every child in their class to touch base, say hello and discuss learning needs. We thank all parents/carers for the kind comments and helpful suggestions, you have yet again shown what a great community we work in. Please stay as safe as possible.

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School

Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School

Happy children learn, happy staff thrive, happy parents build a community

