

Tuesday, 5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown and instructed people to '*stay at home to control the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.*' From today, people are only allowed to leave their homes for the following reasons:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person.
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home.
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one.
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse).
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible.

This announcement further strengthens the message that at the moment, **the safest place for your child is at home.**

We will provide remote and online learning to support you and your child during this lockdown. For those who need free school meals they will be ready for collection on a Monday from 11:30am. For the children of our critical worker parents and our most vulnerable families, our schools will continue to remain open.

Thank you for your support and patience. We have had a few teething problems today but generally things have gone well. There are a few points that we would like to clarify.

Critical worker place deadline

We do appreciate the speed in which we have asked you to provide us with this information. However, some parents have contacted us today saying that they require school places. If you and your partner are critical workers and you would like your child to attend school, please email head@beechfield.herts.sch.uk by **9am on Thursday 7th January 2021.**

If you have accepted a place and no longer require your child to come to school please inform us as soon as possible. We need this information to ensure we have the necessary staffing in place from next week.

Thursday will be the final cut off point for accepting pupils. If your work situation does change at any point, please speak to the Headteacher.

School start time/ pick up

The school day runs between **8:45 and 3:15.** We had several parents arrive late to drop off and pick up their children. Please ensure that you are punctual for pick up and drop off. Please note that we are not offering breakfast club and after school club places.

Attendance

We understand that if you are a critical worker your working patterns may mean that your child might not need to access the in school provision every day. In order to reduce the number of pupils on site, please only attend on the days that you need to. If you are **not** attending everyday then please contact the office to inform them of what days you are attending.

Electronic devices

We have a limited number of devices at school that we can lend to families. Families who have contacted us for a device will be notified and asked to come and collect these – you will have to sign a waiver upon collection.

If you do not have a device for your child to use, please phone the school office to let them know. We want all of our children to be able to access the online learning.

If you or any family members have any old or unused laptops/chrome books/tablets that you no longer use, please drop them to the school so they can be recommissioned and given out to families who need one.

Social distancing measures

As we have said all along, the health, safety and wellbeing of our children, staff, parents and carers must continue to be at the forefront of our thinking. Please strictly follow social distancing measures and ensure that you wear face masks at all times when on the school site.

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School