



MEADGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mascalls Way • Great Baddow • Chelmsford • Essex CM2 7NS

Tel: (01245) 259403

E-mail: admin@meadgate.essex.sch.uk • Website: www.meadgateprimary.com

Executive Headteacher: Mr. J. J. Figg

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

On Monday evening, at the same time as you, I heard the Prime Minister announce the closure of schools for face-to-face physical teaching. Unfortunately, not for the first time in recent months, a substantial variation in the expectations for schools was delivered with no advance notice for parents/carers or those of us who lead the schools! This obviously doesn't make it easy for us or you!

Open for Remote Learning

Firstly I would like to remind everyone that the school is not closed! As we have communicated in previous correspondence, all pupils will have access to remote education for the first two weeks of the term. This will now be extended to at least the February half term. This work is fully underway already and you will find remote education being uploaded to the class pages of the school's website.

During the autumn term I researched how to provide the most effective remote learning package. Therefore not all lessons or tasks will have the same approach. They will vary according to the content, context and skills being taught. Our children will therefore be set a range of activities to be studied at home that should take them up to three hours a day to complete.

We have introduced Zoom tutorial sessions and these started positively today with a strong uptake. From tomorrow these sessions will take more of a tutorial feel, especially for our older pupils. We are asking that parents/carers submit their children's work to the year group email address, or tapestry for reception children. This will allow staff to comment on the children's work and provide feedback that will support future learning. Please remember that the teachers will be completing a range of tasks while working from home and some will also be supporting their own children at home. They will also be in school at some point during the week, supporting the children in receipt of face-to-face teaching. Therefore you may not receive an immediate response, please bear with us.

Secondly, we are already making on-site provision for the children of critical workers and those classified as 'vulnerable'. This will continue throughout the enforced school closures.

Exams

Few details were provided in the announcement, it is not clear when the 'closure' will end and the comments relating to summer examinations have yet to be confirmed. I am assuming there will not be any key stage 2 standard attainment tests (SATs) for Year 6 in 2021 as the summer GCSE and A Levels appear to have been cancelled. This may be the case for other year groups too.

Looking forward

The latest lockdown, once again, limits the engagement of pupils and staff in school life. During the latter half of the summer term and the autumn term in 2020, we had all worked hard to create a renewed sense of our school as a community. We must not allow ourselves to forget this and when we open to all pupils later this year, we will achieve this community spirit once again. It may be several weeks' time, but it won't be long and I know that I am not alone in craving the return to school of all our pupils and staff and the wonderful vibrant school community that Meadgate Primary is.

Finally, so many of you have written or called us, with notes of thanks and support. This is hugely appreciated and reminds me that it is the school community that we serve that matters and together we will get through the tough times and the light at the end of the tunnel is getting closer. Please know that you too have our support. We are aware that for many families the last year has not been easy at all. As always if you need any support just ask.

Many thanks as always



Joseph Figg
Executive Headteacher