



Morecambe Bay Community Primary School  
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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I know how hard this latest lockdown and the restrictions associated with it will be for many of us, it does feel like disruption has been never ending, however we have done this before and I know that our local health teams are working tremendously hard to roll out the vaccination programme. The phrase of the day for us has been “We’ve got this!”

#### Lockdown Provision

Our school team have worked flat out to manage the opening of in school Critical worker/ Vulnerable child provision and to set up home schooling on our Google Classrooms and Meeting function.

#### **Google Classrooms/ remote learning**

This provision has been very well accessed and appreciated by those using it with one parent commenting; “I just want to say a huge thanks for today, my son had a very productive day, completed all his work and enjoyed seeing his classmates and his teacher. This is a great way to learn from home for them, so thank you for saving us parents from trying to play teacher.” We are here to support your child’s learning at home as much as we can and appreciate it can be frustrating to struggle with an unfamiliar system, but in our opinion, it is the best way to keep up with whole class progress and gives the children a chance to stay in touch with each other and their teacher. Please keep on persevering, it does get easier and our in-school IT support team, Mr Weightman and Mr Finnegan are ready to talk you through how to sort any problems; just ring the school office number if you would like their help.

We are very aware that it is difficult to manage the demand for devices when there is more than one child working from home, we have lap tops and iPads available to loan out to those who would like to request one, so that you don’t have to try to work from a mobile phone or to share devices. The Department for Education has provided us with an additional number of 68 lap tops specifically for this purpose, please ask for one as there is no point in them sitting in school when you could make good use of them. School device network filters will not apply at home and we request that if you are using school resources that you monitor their usage and screen time. There will also be a loan agreement for you to sign and return via email.

We are trying to order further network and broadband support to accompany devices, so it is possible that if your internet access is difficult or limited we could provide some assistance. We will keep you informed.

### **Critical Worker/ Vulnerable child provision**

I do want to ask you to consider the bigger picture when asking for a place in school and then sending your child/ children in. Currently we are at capacity with children of parents who are both key workers or children who are vulnerable. Throughout the Autumn Term we did incredibly well as a school to keep the virus at bay. This has meant that we have been able to carry on teaching and learning with staffing levels. Now that the lockdown has been called it is vital that we all Stay Home and Protect The NHS. Rates of infections have been climbing in school pupils since the start of the Autumn Term, including in Primary aged pupils. While the majority of children are not very ill with the virus, they do still pass it on to adults in the home and in school and some children do get quite poorly. Covid rates among school staff in some areas are as much as four times the corresponding local authority average. I ask you to seriously consider whether your child really needs the place in school if you have requested one, or if you can make alternate arrangements that will lessen the risk to everyone. I also request that if you have been offered a place you only send your child in on the days that you are working as this will also lessen the risk to everyone. If one parent, regardless of whether you live together or not, can cover child care then please do this.

### **Free School Meal Provision**

We are still awaiting confirmation re the provision of vouchers as previously provided. Because we do not expect this to be sorted out before the end of this week and possibly the week after, we have therefore asked the Morecambe Bay Foodbank to provide food parcels for each child in eligible families for at least these first two weeks. These packs are substantial and are an entitlement for all FSM families, so please do not feel bad about accepting them. The first deliveries should therefore be arriving at your houses on either Thursday or Friday of this week.

### **Assistance**

If you or your family need a Foodbank referral because you are shielding or struggling to food shop for any other reason, please contact the school office and we will sort this out for you.

Class teachers/ support staff will be contacting everybody on a weekly basis to check if you and your family require any additional help or support, we can assist with all sorts of issues including mental health concerns, housing issues, family support and access to financial assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know if you need help.

Fare share Food Club will continue every Wednesday, with supermarket surplus food collected from a Preston depot and available for Food Club participants to help themselves to. A weekly payment of £3 means that you can take home a huge bag of food supplies including bread, meat, dairy produce, fresh fruit and vegetables, tinned stuff and toiletries. This is not a charity provision but an effort to reduce food waste from large food suppliers. Please ring school and let Mrs Wilkinson know if you would like to participate.

## Summary

This lockdown does feel very different as many people who were not able to work in March and April seem to be able to carry on working this time. I understand the pressure this puts on you all but again, I ask that you Stay Home and Protect the NHS.

Please be patient as our new systems evolve and embed, the timescales we are working within are frantic and we are working at full capacity to try to keep up with the pace of change. Remember that school is not closed but the majority of learning is now remote. If you have any questions please ring school on 01524 401002 or email us using the [officeadmin@morecambebay.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:officeadmin@morecambebay.lancs.sch.uk).

Please continue to look after yourselves and each other.

Yours,

Mrs S Collingwood