

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

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4th January 2021

Dear Parents

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN – SCHOOL CLOSURE/REMOTE LEARNING

Following the Prime Minister's announcement tonight, I am writing to inform you of our immediate arrangements for our pupils.

School Attendance

From tomorrow school will only be open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Please only send your child to school if you meet the criteria for attendance as specified in the document sent earlier tonight. At present, it is my understanding that only one parent needs to meet the criteria for a child to be eligible to attend. However, please bear with me as I navigate further guidance and updates as this may change.

School will be open at 8:30am with all eligible children expected to arrive by 8:40am. Children will be dismissed at their usual times from their usual places at the end of the day.

Please be extremely mindful of moving safely around the site and please do not congregate or mix with other households whilst dropping off and picking up. Thank you for your support with this.

Remote Learning

For all other children, learning will move to SeeSaw. Teachers will begin setting and sending out work from **10am** tomorrow. This is to allow teachers some time in the morning to make arrangements for the children attending whilst also preparing for remote learning. From Wednesday work will be set from 9am.

As per our policy, teachers in KS1 and KS2 will set 3 lessons daily. These will always include at least one English (reading or writing) and one maths activity. Other activities will be based on foundation subjects and RE. This should equate to 3 hours learning daily. In Early Years, work will be appropriate to the children's development and will include early reading and writing activities such as fine motor tasks and story sharing.

We know that supporting your child's learning at home, whilst trying to manage your own responsibilities, is extremely tough. However, we also know it is vital that children remain in a routine and maintain their habits for learning so that when this is over they can return easily to typical routines. Your children have made fantastic progress since returning to school in September which shows what an awesome job families did in Lockdown 1. Please be encouraged by this as you get ready to do it again!

School has a small number of devices which can be loaned to children who do not have access to equipment at home to support remote learning. Parents can request a loan device in these circumstances. A Pupil Device User Agreement must be completed by parents before equipment can be loaned. As yet, we have only received 4 devices from the DfE to assist with this as equipment was provided to support cases of individual isolation rather than full lockdown. The PM has said tonight that more equipment is coming



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however there is no time frame on this. We are also able to provide paper copies of work which is more consolidation and revision work as worksheets and paper tasks do not lend themselves to new teaching. If you are unsure of how to access SeeSaw or have misplaced your child's login details, please contact the school office tomorrow and we will provide new details. There is a SeeSaw helpsheet on the school website which you can access via this link:

<https://priorsmill.org.uk/remote-learning-through-seesaw/>

School Meals

Children in school tomorrow need to follow their usual meal arrangements either by bringing a packed lunch or taking a school hot meal or packed lunch as planned.

As yet, we have not received any information about meal provision during the closure for pupils in receipt of free school meals. I hope we will get information regarding the longer-term plan for this soon and will write again to let you know.

Communication

I will do my best to keep you informed, updated and generally in the know with whatever we know when we know it! Please check emails regularly, and also Marvellous Me, the school website and facebook. You will appreciate that schools are given no more notice than anyone else about sudden changes to policy and we have as many questions as you. Staff respond as quickly as possible to these changes whilst also trying to manage the impact on their own personal and family circumstances. It is a really difficult time for everyone. Feedback that helps us improve any of our systems is really welcome; we won't always get everything right but we will always try our absolute best for your children.

We will miss having a full and vibrant school and we will miss seeing many of the wonderful children of Prior's Mill every day. But, we will continue to be Team Prior's – even at a distance – and look forward to the time when we are all back together. Praying it is sooner rather than later.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

