



Brentnall Community Primary School

Northumberland Street, Salford, M7 4RP

Tel: 0161 792 4317

Headteacher: Mr. M Thompson

Chair of Governors: Rev. S Fletcher

8th January 2021

Parents' Update – Friday 8th January 2021

Dear parents,

I want to begin my update letter today with a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and children for their commitment and understanding this week. I would also like to share my thanks to the staff at school who, as always, have gone above and beyond, in ensuring we are supporting children and their families – this has been recognised through phone calls, emails and Tweets shared thanking us for our hard work. These small tokens of appreciation are much appreciated and keep motivation high during these difficult times.

School Places for Key Worker and Vulnerable Children

I am aware that many of our children may well fall into these categories. To date, we are still awaiting the full guidance from the DfE regarding offering places. I would like to stress that the places are only to be taken by families who really need them and are unable to work from home. If you can work from home, or have alternative childcare provision through a childcare bubble, then please keep your child at home, as this is the safest place for them at this time.

Though this may be inconvenient, if they are in school there are no guarantees that they won't be exposed to the virus. We have all our protective measures in place and will continue to follow the guidance, but this still leaves a certain amount of exposure to Covid-19 and the new strain. We aim to give places to all children of key workers but may have to limit this to lone parents or households where both parents must go out to work and no alternative childcare is available.

Keeping everybody safe and well!

It is obviously our key aim to ensure everybody in our school community is safe and well, and protected from the virus. The safest way to do this, following government advice, is to **STAY AT HOME!**

Whilst we await further updates from the government, regarding expectations around the current lockdown specifically for schools, we should follow the current guidance issued for everyone. This information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

I shall write to you again as soon as I receive further guidance from the Department for Education and/or the Local Authority.

Home Learning

Next week, our home learning will continue and today you will receive a separate letter about this which will outline what your child will be required to do. Teachers will be providing daily teaching videos, learning and activities. All children will be required to complete the learning/tasks set by teachers, share the work for feedback and participate in any learning. Communication will be through the class email and phone calls.

At this time, we have made the decision, following feedback from parents during the last lockdown, to share pre-recorded videos each day, rather than live lessons. This means that videos can be watched more than once and for those families who have more than one child at school who are sharing a device at home, they can access learning at different times of the day.

Those children attending school in the key worker/vulnerable children groups will be following the same learning set like the rest of their class. This ensures all children have the same offer, and those working from home are not disadvantaged in any way.

Again, following feedback from some parents this week, I have asked all teachers to send their learning email by 4pm for the following day. This allows parents to read the email and be ready for supporting their child the following day. We appreciate that these are challenging times for parents and, if we can offer any support, please speak to a member of staff who will be calling you regularly, or send an email to the class email account and we will do our very best to support you.

Telephone Calls

We will be continuing with regular phone calls to families each week. Please remember that these calls will be from a withheld number, so please do try to answer. We will call back later in the week if we are unable to get through.

If you miss a call, please let us know you are safe and well by email to info@brentnallschool.uk

We are in the process of getting a mobile phone so we can share the number with parents for emergencies. In the meantime, please ring the school office phone between 9:00am-3:00pm, on 0161 792 4317. If this call is not answered, please leave a message and we will contact you back.

And finally,

I want to acknowledge how we appreciate that these are difficult and challenging times for everyone. Everyone is experiencing their own levels of anxiety and worry as we work to keep everybody safe and protect ourselves and our families from the virus. However, we have hope in the knowledge that there are now 2 vaccines approved that we hope will be delivered soon to protect us.

I am looking forward to a time when we can all be back together, learning alongside our friends and working together with our families with all children learning in school. Until then, we must work together, follow guidelines and remember to **stay at home**, in order to **protect the NHS** and **SAVE LIVES!**

I am both proud and humbled by the community spirit I have experienced this week – it's another reason why Brentnall truly is a fantastic school.

I look forward to speaking with families over the coming weeks and please do keep in touch; we are here to support you as much as we can.

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr. Matt Thompson

Headteacher