



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 14th January 2021

www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Telephone: 01206 322242

Head Talk

Dear families of Dedham CE Primary School,

Thank you for your fantastic support last week and this, as we balance the challenge of developing our remote education offer with the increased demand for in-school places for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The fact that we will definitely be in this position until February half term at least, means that we need to make this as effective as possible for all of our families.

Our remote education offer follows the national curriculum for your child's class and we are delighted that 96% of children at Dedham are accessing the lessons and activities set by their teacher. This will make a tremendous difference to them when the school opens to all children. Please make contact with us if you need support with remote education, whether it be technical advice, support with devices or the learning itself.

As I reported last week, the demand for in school places has risen significantly and currently sits at 55 children. This requires up to 15 staff in school each day to work with the children attending, prepare meals, clean the school and run the office.

As a primary school, we have a limited number of staff and so have to think carefully about how they can be utilised to teach both in-school and remotely. This week, two members of staff are still recovering from Covid-19 and a further two are self-isolating after contact with a person positive for Covid-19. Obviously, this places a significant additional pressure in the system. If you are a critical worker, please only use the offer of provision if it is crucial and only on the days you undertake your critical role. DfE guidance states, *parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.*

The reduction in transmission of Coronavirus remains the priority at this very difficult time.

Staying connected

We are continually developing ways that we can keep in touch using Tapestry, Seesaw (including the Family App) and Microsoft Teams. Many of you have already received a telephone call from your child's teacher or another member of staff to offer support with remote education or just to catch up. These calls have been well received and we are pleased to have helped a number of families with remote education.

Soon, I will be offering our first virtual Parent Forum/coffee afternoon for you to feedback regarding our remote education offer, ask questions, get any technical or educational help or just see another human being!

Thank you for your understanding and support.

My very best wishes to you all,

Mr David Lerner
Headteacher

Live sessions using Microsoft Team next week

The teaching staff are looking forward to bringing some live face-to-face interaction to the school next week. All of the children in the school have been assigned a username and a password for Microsoft Teams for this purpose.

The scheduled meeting times for next week are:

Class R – Thursday 21st January at 11am

Class 1 – Friday 22nd January at 10am



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Class 2 - Tuesday 19th January at 2pm
Class 3 – Monday 18th January at 2pm
Class 4 – Thursday 21st January at 2pm
Class 5 – Wednesday 20th January at 2pm
Class 6 – Wednesday 20th January at 10am

Please remember to return your 'Acceptable Use Agreement' for using Microsoft Teams if you wish your child to participate in these sessions. Your child will soon be receiving their login details through our online learning platforms (Tapestry or the Seesaw Family App) if we have received confirmation that you and your child know and understand this agreement.

Here is a reminder of the link to complete the Google Form.

<https://forms.gle/79gPKFrGmJ2o2BpL8>

Accessing Microsoft Teams

We would recommend using a laptop or desktop computer if you have one, however it will also work on a mobile device. If using a mobile device, you will need to download the Microsoft Teams app. If using a computer or laptop, you can use the web version of Microsoft Teams although we would recommend the desktop app which is easily downloaded from the website.

When your child logs on for the first time, they will be prompted to change their password so please have a pen and paper to hand to note down what they have chosen.

Lunch money

If your child is attending school as a key worker/vulnerable child, payment for school dinners can be sent in with your child (cash, or cheques made payable to Essex County Council).

Lunch Menu for children attending in-school provision

From next week (Monday 18th January) there will be a new TWO week menu.

We will start on WEEK 2 – i.e. Monday will be: Jacket potato with beans and cheese and mixed salad, and rice pudding with strawberry sauce. A copy of the new menu is attached.

Additional Remote Learning resources

BBC Bitesize

[BBC Bitesize](#) have tailored their offer to support schools' provision of remote education. Collections of educational resources on the BBC Bitesize and BBC Teach websites are available to support online learning at home.

Blue Peter

[Blue Peter on YouTube](#)

Blue Peter is the longest running TV programme for children in the world and they are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. They have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. They also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge!

If you are interested in this, you can subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's free to subscribe!) and you can watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.



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Parent Group News

Happy New Year from the Parent Group, we hope that everyone is keeping safe and well. We wanted to share some good news with you all regarding our Christmas fundraising.

The Christmas card orders made a fantastic £340.22 this year which is considerably more than previous years. Thank you to all those who placed orders, to the teaching staff for making the time to produce the art work with the children. Also, special thanks to the office staff who put a lot of work into organising payments and distributing orders and, of course, thank you to Jessie Wijesekera for continuing to run this fantastic fundraiser on our behalf.

Our Christmas raffle was also a big success raising £1,320 for the school. Our sincere thanks to all those who bought and sold tickets and of course the parents and local businesses who provided prizes and sponsorship.

Christine, Lara and Kate.

Free school meals – Have your circumstances changed?

If you believe your circumstances have changed during the period of lockdown and you could be eligible for free school meals then you can find the criteria and application process by following the link below;

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Primary School Applications for September 2021 – Closing date is tomorrow, 15th January 2021

The closing date for applications is tomorrow, 15th January 2021. Please ensure your application is submitted on time. Applications can be made via the website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

News from St Mary's Church, Dedham

We now have a dedicated page on our website where you can find out more about upcoming services and events at St Mary's Church, Dedham. It can be found at the link below;

<https://www.dedham.essex.sch.uk/news-from-st-marys-church-dedham>