



Goldenhill Primary Academy



Head teacher: Mr. S Martin BA (Hons).NPQH

"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

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Dear Parent/Carer,

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE – 12.1.21

It is not possible for me to convey quite how demoralised and upset we all are here at Goldenhill that primary schools have had to shut for a second time until Monday 22nd February at the earliest. The staff here have worked tirelessly closing the gaps and rebuilding the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils that resulted from the last lockdown. That said, keeping everyone safe is our number one priority.

I am sure you would join me in thanking the staff at Goldenhill who have had to adapt very quickly to a different way of teaching, providing remote learning and communication to pupils and parents from last week. I would also like to thank all of our parents for their patience and support during the first few days of our switch to remote learning. There have been teething problems along the way, but I am hoping that we have managed to address any issues preventing children and families from accessing this provision. Once again, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that we can be of support with during this third lockdown.

It was been amazing to observe how well the vast majority of pupils have accessed both our interactive timetables, from the academy website, and the TEAM's sessions, both live and pre-recorded lessons. I know that teachers are adding more and more resources to class TEAM's on a daily basis to further support your child's learning. The ongoing dialogue between staff and pupils has not only made their learning more interactive but has supported them in feeling less isolated. During the afternoon sessions, teachers will be carrying out 1:1 TEAM's meeting or phone calls with children from their classes so will be unable to respond to messages during that time. If you do message them in the afternoons, they will reply to you later in the day. Any messages sent after 5pm will be replied to the next working day and any messages over the weekend will be replied to on a Monday. Although it is great that the children are becoming more proficient in the use of TEAM's, please can I ask that this system is only used for class led meetings and that groups of children do not set up private meetings as a social network and that the 'chat' area is used for learning/questions only. We do monitor the use of this system as part of our safeguarding requirements.

Whilst the expectation set by the DfE for the quantity of remote learning to be delivered (consisting of live lessons, pre-recorded materials and links to quality resources) stands at three hours a day for Reception and KS1 pupils and for Key Stage 2 pupils four hours, we as a school recognise the intense pressure that this places on parents and carers. You will continue to be assigned this amount of work; however, it is far more important that you just do your best. If some of the tasks are not completed, this is acceptable, we understand that every home learning environment is different and is operating under different pressures.

However, it is a requirement that all pupils, who are not onsite, engage with remote learning. We are asking that you do this by logging onto TEAM's daily. Staff will be contacting families to offer support and guidance to ensure that this is happening. As previously



mentioned, we will also be holding 1:1 TEAM's session for children each week, if either the class teacher or parents feel this will be of benefit.

The feedback from staff about the home learning that has been taking place last week is brilliant and you are ALL doing an amazing job in the circumstances. We have heard fascinating stories where parents have creatively adapted learning to give children experiences we couldn't give in school - please feel free to do this. Do what works for your family! The importance of your child's and your own mental wellbeing is the most important thing. It is also vitally important that your child and family get some fresh air on walks and being out and about (adhering to restrictions).

Free school meal provision:

During the period of national lockdown, we will continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. For those children in school, meals will be available free of charge to all infant pupils and pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

From Monday 11th January, we will also provide free school meals vouchers for pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals who are not attending school. This arrangement will be reviewed every two weeks.

Onsite provision:

In regards to pupils accessing learning on the school site, during the period of national lockdown, we can only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place if required, but the government message is clear: ***parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***

Currently, our pupils are in year group bubbles as this is the safest for pupils, staff and yourselves. Children will not be mixing with any other bubbles. Obviously, if staffing levels were to change, we would review how this provision is organised. The size of these groups, as per the Government's directive to limit the number of contacts, where possible, is limited to 15 children. Provision will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Should there be significant issues with capacity in the school, then we reserve the right to review the setting's offer of full-time places and to give priority to certain types of Critical Worker.

As a school, we want to support you in Critical Worker care and Remote Learning as much as possible. Parents and carers who we have spoken with have been extremely supportive and understanding of the difficult situation that schools find themselves in. Where we can support you and help you- we will. Ultimately, our goal is that everyone in the whole school community is safe.

On behalf of all the staff at Goldenhill, I would like to thank you for the overwhelming support you have shown since this news broke. We have received a number of heart-warming emails and TEAM's messages, which has been of great support.

Take care and kindest regards

Mr S Martin

Head Teacher

