



Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Closure of School for Third National Lockdown

As you already know, the Government made an announcement late in the evening on Monday 4th January to put the country into its third national lockdown, and as a result close ALL schools. Both schools immediately sent text messages to primary contacts to alert them to the fact that no children would be able to attend school.

We have been extremely busy since then making all the necessary arrangements to support you and the children.

Provision for children of Key Workers

Both schools have already contacted parents and carers known to be Key Workers and whose children attended this type of provision during the first lockdown. Bubbles have been set up and opened today. Places are limited so that maximum safety can be maintained at all times during the current extremely dangerous time.

If you need to book a place for your child/ren because you are a Key Worker and cannot make any alternative provision, please telephone the school to discuss your needs and be prepared to provide documented proof of your key worker role:

Sladefield – 0121 327 0662

Thornton – 0121 327 0824

The government's list of Key Workers can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>



Provision for vulnerable children and children with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Both schools have also already contacted parents and carers of children to discuss how their child/ren can be supported with their individual learning needs.



Remote learning

Both schools will continue to provide remote learning for all pupils.

Starting on Monday 11th January, Thornton children will be able to join their class online each day using Google Classrooms. This will allow the class teacher to communicate daily with all the children in their class and allow them to introduce the learning each day and support them at certain points during the school day (9am to 3pm). By the end of this week, we will email you a more detailed letter about this, together with support booklets for you and for your child/ren. Staff will also make follow up calls to check you have received the information and login details.

This is a new way of working remotely for both the children and the staff, so we already acknowledge there will be some teething problems and issues to resolve as everyone becomes more skilled and confident in working in this way! We are grateful for your support and understanding with this as we endeavour to give our children the very best opportunities we can during this extremely difficult time.

Thornton will continue to provide paper copies of work weekly, and these can be collected in the usual way from the boxes placed outside the main Reception.

Access to remote learning

Our remote learning arrangements are reliant on children having access to appropriate IT devices at home. So far, the Department for Education has provided Thornton with a limited number of laptops that we can loan out to families. This is on the understanding that parents and carers agree to our home school IT device agreement. Please complete the form below to request a school laptop. Please note, we cannot guarantee that we will have enough laptops to meet expected demand. To register an interest in potentially being allocated a school laptop, please complete the form linked below so we can update your home situation as soon as possible:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hK6Sjwgw_kWNfZnF5eafISBJMFbM5BVPuoqilHmM0-xUNTRGQkEzSIVEU0szR1dERV04STRUSUxGWS4u

Welfare telephone calls

Staff from both schools will continue to make the fortnightly welfare telephone calls home to speak with you and your child/ren so that everyone's wellbeing is supported. It also enables us to ensure we meet our statutory safeguarding responsibilities. If we are unable to make contact on the first call we will keep trying as it is really important that we get in touch, and we know from feedback that the children enjoy speaking with their teacher!



Free School Meals

If your child/ren is entitled to receive Free School Meals, please can you ensure that you have registered for the weekly food parcels by letting the school office know straight away (0121 327 0824). We will then contact you to tell you which day each week you can visit the school site to collect your food parcel. Currently, **the Government and the Local Authority are NOT issuing any vouchers** so you must collect a food parcel from school if you wish to receive your entitlement.

Keeping our school families Covid-safe



If you think you, your child, or a member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms, you should isolate immediately and follow the latest guidance provided by the NHS.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We thank you, as always, for your co-operation and continued support especially in these challenging times.

Kind regards,

Rob Meadows
Headteacher of Sladefield

Cathy Grace
Acting Headteacher of Thornton