



Halebank C of E Primary School
Heathview Road
WIDNES
Cheshire
WA8 8UZ



Headteacher: Mr R Harley

Telephone number: 0151 425 5798

Friday, 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and that you and your families are staying safe. We have now reached the end of our second week of the partial school closure and there are a few important pieces of information that I would like to share with you.

Food Parcels

I hope those of you whose children are eligible for free school meals received your food parcels from Halton School Meals on Wednesday. Our staff team did a sterling job getting these out to the families of the school and I'd like to thank them all for the extra miles and minutes they added to their journeys to ensure prompt delivery. We received some lovely thank you messages from you; these mean so much at a time when we are all feeling stretched!

Free School Meals Vouchers

I launched a quick survey to establish the way forward for free school meals provision at our school. Thank you for responding so quickly to the email that was sent out on Wednesday. For those eligible families, the consensus was a voucher scheme. The school will use Wonde to distribute the vouchers and these have been ordered to start the week beginning 18th January. Please check your inbox at the beginning of each week to access your voucher (£15 per week per child).

The first vouchers should arrive on **Monday** next week; the value of these will be £27 which will cover next week, plus the four days of school from the week beginning 4th January. The system will be the same as the one accessed over Christmas and you can assign your vouchers to the following supermarkets: Morrisons, Aldi, Iceland, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and ASDA. I hope the scheme will run smoothly once again but please drop me an email if you have any difficulties and I will do my best to help. I can be reached at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk.

If your child is eligible for free school meals and is currently attending our childcare provision for critical workers, please note that we cannot provide both a school meal and a voucher. In this case, we ask that you provide your child with a packed lunch on the days that he/she is in school.

Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

We continue to operate childcare provision for pupils whose parents work in sectors which are 'critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response'. I am really grateful to those parents who have responded to last week's request by reducing the time their children are spending in school and, once again, I would urge you to keep your children **at home** with you unless coming to school is absolutely necessary.

If you haven't done so already, please provide the school with the letter we asked for from your employer to confirm the nature of your work and your contracted hours. Without this information, we may not be able to continue offering a childcare place.

Please also check the Department for Education's '[Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#)' guidance which was updated on 8th January. This guidance states clearly that children 'with at least one parent or carer who is a **critical** worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**' It is worth reminding you that some pupils, whose parents are not critical workers, are with us in school because they have been identified by professionals as being vulnerable. Thank you for your understanding and sensitivity in this matter.

Home Learning

We continue to be impressed with the children's level of engagement with remote learning. Our teachers are working tirelessly to plan, deliver, assess and review learning activities. While there were some challenges at the start, most children are now logging onto our [Learning Platform](#) every day and participating fully in home learning. As a school, we recognise the fact that your child has an entitlement to an education from us and I am confident that the staff have made a strong and proactive commitment to providing remote education which is accessible to all the children. Should this not be the case and if your child is not able to learn remotely, you have a responsibility to inform us. I have received details from the teachers of families who are not yet engaging regularly with the process; please contact us as a matter of urgency if you are having difficulties. We do appreciate the challenging and uncertain circumstances you find yourselves in. Nevertheless, education is not optional and we must work together to ensure that your child receives a high quality remote curriculum until the school re-opens.

Contacting Class Teachers

If you need to contact your child's class teacher, please use these email addresses:

Class	Year Group/s	Class Teacher/s	Email Address
Class 1	Reception	Mrs Power	class1@halebanksch.halton.sch.uk
Class 2	Year 1/2	Mrs Draper	class2@halebanksch.halton.sch.uk
Class 3	Year 3/4	Mrs Eley/Mrs Griffin-Jones	class3@halebanksch.halton.sch.uk
Class 4	Year 5/6	Mrs Bennett	class4@halebanksch.halton.sch.uk

New Timetable and Collection of Work Packs

The current pack of work and 10 day timetable that was delivered to your homes will run until Tuesday next week. A new 8 day timetable and work pack is now being put together. As the staff are either supervising pupils in school or delivering remote learning, it will not be possible for these to be delivered again. Instead, we will make the resources available for you to collect from the front of school on the afternoon of **Tuesday, 19th January** at the times below.

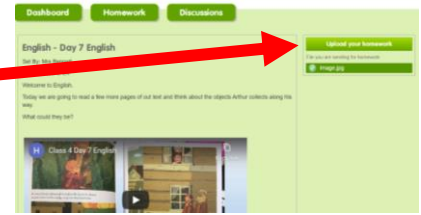
Groups	Pupils	Collection Times
Group 1	Pupils with surnames A-E	1.00 – 1.25 pm
Group 2	Pupils with surnames F-K	1.30 – 1.55 pm
Group 3	Pupils with surnames L-R	2.00 – 2.25 pm
Group 4	Pupils with surnames S-Z	2.30 – 2.55 pm

Please follow the school's usual routine for entering the grounds:

- ✓ wear a face covering
- ✓ only one adult collecting
- ✓ observe 2 metre social distancing
- ✓ enter/leave the site as quickly as possible

Uploading of Remote Learning

In order to upload your child's work so that it can be viewed by the teachers, please use the green 'Upload your homework' button.



Home learning should reach class teachers **no later than**

5.00 pm on the day of submission to enable teachers to access work and provide feedback ready for the following day. If your own working commitments (or access to technology) mean that you will be regularly submitting work later than this, please email your child's class teacher to make arrangements. Please note that late submissions may not be checked as teachers will be busy planning, preparing and uploading activities for the next school day. Thank you.

Internet Access and Data Allowances

The Department for Education (DfE) is working in partnership with mobile network operators to help schools support pupils who are relying on a mobile internet connection now that their face-to-face education has been disrupted by coronavirus (Covid-19). Schools can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

If your family meets all three criteria above and you would like the school to submit a request to increase your data allowance on a mobile device, please email me with the following details:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Thank You

After another strange week, I hope that you are all finding your feet and getting into some sort of routine. In school, we continue to miss having you all around and we are hopeful that the partial closure will not last for too long. Please keep going with all you are doing! We are not far away, so do keep in touch with us and let us know if you need any help.

Please look after yourselves and your families. Stay safe ☺.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Harley
Headteacher