

CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

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Headteacher: Mrs A. Navas Chair of Governors: Mr C. Mitchell



Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week it has been! I hope that you and your families are staying safe and well. This has certainly not been the start to the New Year and the new school term that we were hoping for and expecting. Thank you so much for being patient and working with us as we move to a new way of teaching and learning at the moment. Here are a few updates that I hope you will find helpful.

Free School Meals

Once again we are providing vouchers to parents of children who are eligible for these. The vouchers will be to the value of £2:30 per day, which is the amount that school receive to cover the cost of a school meal. All parents of children eligible for free school meals and who are not in attendance at school should have received their vouchers covering the first 2 weeks. They will be sent fortnightly until all children can return to learning in school.

If anyone has had a change of personal circumstances and thinks that you may now be eligible for free school meals please fill in the application form which can be accessed on the DMBC website or contact school and we can point you in the right direction and support you if needed. Not only would you then be able to benefit from free school meals, but school would receive additional funding to support education in school.

Remote Learning

We are working hard to ensure that every child continues to make progress and access live teaching and learning every day. We understand that this can be challenging at times and thank you for your help in setting up and organising this with your children. We hope you are finding the package of learning and support that we are offering is working. We will be looking to constantly review and make improvements over the coming weeks. If you have any worries, questions or thoughts please contact your child's teacher, or feel welcome to contact me in school to discuss them. We would like to get this as right as we can for all of our children and families and welcome your feedback.

Zoom Protocols

Please be aware that the following apply to live lessons to maintain safeguarding and ensure teaching and learning can run as smoothly as possible:

- No 1:1 lessons will take place, groups only.
- Children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any devices used should be in appropriate areas and where possible be against an appropriate background
- Language must be appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Videos may be muted for both pupils and staff if other children in the household become unsettled or cause a disruption.
- The live lessons are for our own school children only. Lessons should not be recorded or shared on social media sites.
- Where parents are able to supervise sessions we are very grateful for this. If you have older children, and are possibly trying to balance home working , or supervising more than one child on their lessons we know this can be a real challenge and would ask that if possible you 'check in ' with your child to make sure they are OK.

Access to devices, for learning at home

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have done an amazing job ensuring that your children at home are accessing their live zoom lessons and engaging with learning. I am delighted to say well



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over 95% of children at home have been able to access all of their sessions every day. Other than a few technical issues and 'teething problems' we have had full engagement with this learning. That's amazing so well done and thank you!

School have loaned out laptops to families and so we hope that you are managing to cope with the devices you have. However, if this is still an issue for you, please don't struggle – contact the school office and we will try to arrange an alternative device for you to borrow.

Staying safe

We are working really hard as a school to maintain levels of safety for both children and staff and to follow very strict hygiene protocols. Can we please respectfully ask all parents and carers of children who are accessing provision in school to follow the lockdown guidance particularly about social interaction and distancing that the government has given. This equally applies to outside of the school setting as well as on our school premises. We want to keep everyone safe in school by ensuring that those people who are in the building are keeping their social contacts to a minimum, and therefore helping to reduce the risk to everyone.

Messages of support

All of the staff would like to say a big thank you for your support and the lovely messages that a number of parents and carers have sent us this week. They are very much appreciated. Having had to change the way that school operates at very short notice we have done our best to continue to offer quality remote learning for everyone as quickly as we can. The education secretary, Gavin Williamson's statement earlier this week stated that if parents and carers were unhappy with the remote learning quality of support they should contact school in the first instance, for school to be given the opportunity to address any issues but they could then make a complaint to Ofsted if necessary. Could we please make you aware that Ofsted also welcome positive feedback about schools and if you feel that we have made a good start to remote learning, a message of positive feedback would also be welcome.

Some special news

To finish the week I thought we would all benefit from some special news that should make everyone smile. Mrs Rowe is expecting a baby early in the summer term. She will therefore be taking maternity leave after the Easter holidays. We will keep year 2 parents informed about staffing nearer to the time, but please be assured that this will be carefully arranged and transition managed appropriately for the children. We have already started working on the plans for this.

It has been a number of years since we have had a new baby at Canon Popham so it will be exciting to share this happy news with the children.

Stay safe everyone and take care. If we can be of any help please contact us. We can get through this together.

Mrs Navas



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