



PARKSIDE HOUSE SCHOOL

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DFE NO: 3926011

Our Ref: BY/COVID

Dear Parents/Carers

Apologies, I have taken a couple of days to come back to you following the Prime Ministers announcement on Monday evening. As you can appreciate this was a bit of a shock especially after I had spent most of Monday meeting with Governors and devising a plan for the next half term, which would include the huge task of planning and implementing the Lateral Flow Tests.

We were back to the drawing board on Tuesday, to establish the provision we will be able to offer during this third National Lockdown. As you will be all aware from the first Lockdown it is extremely difficult to run a school provision whilst under Lockdown conditions. We are faced with numerous logistical and emotional decisions to make, as well as being legally responsible as a governing body for the health and safety of all staff and pupils. Being an Independent School we do not have the security of a large local authority behind us. As you will appreciate a huge responsibility to carry.

I know all parents and carers have been contacted by telephone, and I would like to say thanks for all your kind and supportive words during these initial calls.

So moving forward:

School is able to open Monday to Friday 9.00am -12.30am for all pupils requiring face-to face teaching. Which currently is approximately 10 pupils, and manageable on the staffing levels I have in school. Both the Kitchen staff fall in the category of CEV, clinically extremely vulnerable and so are unable to attend work, therefore we will have no catering facilities on site.

I really do appreciate parents who are able to support their child to remain at home and participate in the live online lessons. This is the safest option for all, but I fully understand this is not possible in all families. Teaching is available in the form of live online lessons to all pupils at home in the morning, and pastoral support and independent work in the afternoons. Please find attached your child's timetable which will run until the February half term.

Technology:

If you require any devices to access the online lessons or have technical issues please contact the school office direct, and we will assist or deliver out a chrome book if required.

FSM:

School will be sending out vouchers today via the post to all pupils who are eligible for free school meals. As many of you are now aware the system for FSM is as follows. It is our school responsibility to send out FSM during term time when required. During school holiday periods it is the responsibility of North Tyneside to provide vouchers, regardless of where you reside as a family. North Tyneside have paid FSM to cover up until the end of March 2021.

All families must register with their own Local Authority to access the Free School Meal System; this information is then passed over to North Tyneside who are responsible for paying the money.

Lateral Flow Tests:

Please see attached letter from the Chair of the Governing Body.

For all pupils and staff who are attending school from Monday 11th January they will be required to be tested at school, using the new Lateral Flow Test which will give a result in 30 minutes. The tests will then become a weekly part of school life. For the first initial test pupils will be tested on the 11th January and then again 3-5 days later. The school would like all pupils to take the test, and so require consent forms to be returned on Monday, if they haven't already been returned, for all pupils below the age of 16 years.

Pupils over 16 years can provide their own consent.

Pastoral Support:

We will be providing pastoral support to all pupils who require the additional support during this lockdown. This will be in the form of weekly phone contact for all pupils not attending school from Year Tutors.

Annette Devenish, Occupational Therapist will be running live sessions in the afternoons with pupils individually this will be to support their emotional wellbeing during the lockdown.

A number of individual arrangements have been set up via key staff to support our most vulnerable pupils throughout the lockdown.

If you have any concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing throughout the lockdown, please contact the school or your child's year tutor. A list of staff email address' are attached.

Other Educational Support:

The BBC has just announced a programme of study for all primary and secondary students This can be accessed through the TV on BBC2 daily for secondary pupils and CBBC daily for primary pupils. And of course Joe Wicks are friendly PE teacher will again be providing session daily to keep us all fit and healthy.

I am extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication of the staff at PHS, and the extremely supportive parents. Please all stay safe, follow the rules and hopefully the end will be in sight.

Yours Faithfully

Belinda Young
Head Teacher