



Godolphin Primary School
'living, learning and laughing together'

Newsletter Issue 15

08/01/2021

Newsletter available on our website

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a start to the term it has been! Some parents have enquired as to whether school leaders were made aware of the Government's decision to close schools prior to the Prime Minister's announcement. Unfortunately, this was not the case and all school staff found out the same time as the rest of the country. It certainly came as a surprise and we had only just had a meeting earlier in the afternoon preparing for all of the children to return on Tuesday.

However, despite the late news we were able to open the school the next morning for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. In addition, teachers were able to set up remote learning for all pupils. This was only able to happen as a result of the hard work of all of the team at Godolphin and the engagement of our families. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their adaptability at a very challenging time.

We do endeavour to keep everyone updated as frequently and as necessary as possible in order to keep you informed with how things in school are progressing. Thank you for your support and patience this week as we set up our lockdown provision for children working remotely and those attending school itself. We have been really impressed with the engagement with remote learning so far and have enjoyed seeing the children join the live sessions through Google Meet.

We are facing a significantly higher demand for places than we experienced in the first lockdown last summer. It has been a challenge to provide in-school provision for the numbers requested as well as prioritising the safety of staff, children, their families and the wider community. We are also having to balance this with ensuring we are providing remote education for those children at home.

We are prioritising our teachers to manage the remote learning as this is how the majority of our children are being educated. Our amazing support team are supervising the pupils who are in school to undertake the same learning as those working remotely. We appreciate how difficult this is for our staff. With this in mind we appreciate your patience and understanding as we establish communications through remote learning in the knowledge that all staff are doing their utmost to make this as easy as possible for all concerned.

Godolphin Primary School currently has 31% of the pupils already registered for a place. There is no criteria yet from the government for when a school is at capacity, we are controlling this through our own risk assessment - but clearly the message for this lockdown is stay at home whenever possible.

If we continue to face upward pressure on places or staffing levels change (due to illness or isolation and we are unable to get cover), we will apply the following criteria:

- Limit places to only when critical worker parents are working
- Limit to where BOTH parents are critical workers (guidance states that furlough critical workers are not entitled to a place as they are not working)
- Follow the County criteria: health including paramedics, police, fire service, social care, education and critical council staff – a list of the later is being developed by County

Hopefully this will not be necessary but it is better to make you aware of our plans should this have to happen.

In order for us to be prepared, if we have to apply the criteria above, we will be asking all parents who are critical workers to complete a form which we will then use to help prioritise places if necessary. This will be emailed to parents early next week.

Many of our challenges are due to this being only a few days in, as we establish new routines. I hope many concerns and worries will resolve over the coming days - especially as we gain a clearer picture of the level of need, staff availability and adapt to any further changes in the guidelines.

We fully appreciate the overwhelming support we have received from parents. Yet again, we are facing challenging circumstances, but we have learnt so much together from the first lockdown and this will help us to get through as a team supporting our amazing children.

Thank you for your continued support when it is most needed.

Lucy Wandless

PE & School Sport:

Please find attached a copy of the Autumn Term Helston Primary Sport Newsletter which features a lovely photo of some of our talented pupils.

Message for those children in school:

As happened in the last lockdown, both the provision of milk and fruit have been suspended. So please ensure your child comes into school with their own filled water bottle each day and a snack.

Currently it is also not necessary to bring book bags into school.

Revised Chartwells Menu:

Chartwells have now updated the menu for the remainder of this half-term. Please find the new menu on the school website (bottom of the homepage).

Chartwells are providing one hot option a day or a jacket potato, as well a dessert.

For those children in school on Monday the menu options are:

- Cheese & tomato pizza with dough balls *or*
- Jacket potato with cheese or beans
- Chocolate & apricot brownie

Remote Learning & Google Meets:

As you will be aware, teachers have one afternoon a week allocated for Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA).

Currently, with teachers providing remote learning and our support staff supervising vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, we have had to change the way teachers have their PPA.

Therefore, on Fridays there will be no Google Meetings in the afternoon. Instead, the teachers will use this time to set remote learning which will not require their support so that they have time to review/assess learning from the week and prepare remote learning/resources for the following week.

As a reminder, please refer to the attached updated weekly timetable showing the scheduled Google Meets for all year groups.

If you require any support, or if you cannot attend any of these meetings, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you.