

Wednesday 5th January

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we prepare for this next stage of Lockdown. Thank you to all parents for completing our survey regarding key worker and vulnerable children provision. I can confirm that we have made provision for these pupils at Speenhamland and have contacted them separately about the arrangements.

Places can be offered to:

* Children who have a social worker and cannot be cared for safely at home.
* Registered Young Carers who cannot be cared for safely at home.
* Children who have an EHCP and cannot be cared for safely at home.
* Children whose parents are key workers and cannot be cared for safely at home.

If your circumstances change and you need a place in the provision, please contact the school office on 01635 41077 ([office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)). The Government are asking all parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible. Settings are only being asked to remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend. Therefore, if one parent is a keyworker, and the other isn’t, the expectation is that the child should remain at home. If both parents are keyworkers, but can keep children at home around shift patterns etc. then again the child should remain at home. The provision is intended for those children who absolutely cannot remain at home, the more children who remain at home, the less chance of the virus spreading; which is why these measures have been introduced again.

**Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we will contact you separately about this provision. If your circumstances or eligibility changes please let us know.

**Teaching and Learning Remotely**

We will therefore move to remote learning from tomorrow Wednesday 6th January 2021. The expectations for remote learning include:

* Assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects.
* Pupils in primary will have set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum: for Primary 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort.

Consequently, there is an expectation for parents to ensure that their children complete the learning activities to the best of their ability. During the school closure, work will be provided for children and can be found on the website under the ‘Home Learning section’. There will be some whole school general tasks as well as individual work set for each class. The class tasks can be found under the sections EYFS, Infants, Lower Juniors and Upper Juniors.

Teachers will be uploading work and activities weekly. There will be activities to complete as well as information to support learning on DB Primary, Purple Mash as well as on other websites. We will be uploading a parents’ ‘How to Guide – DB Primary’ onto the website shortly.

Please do contact the class teacher via the school website if you have difficulties accessing the work. Class teachers will reply to concerns within 48 hours.

Work set will be across a range of curriculum subjects and we are keen for children not to be in front of devices for too long!

There will be no weekend homework set, however, if your child would like to do some work then please feel free to try the many resources on our website.

It would be lovely to share the children’s work and experiences throughout lockdown. Please do send any pictures and messages to class teachers or to me via:

[office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

I will send out a virtual assembly each week as well as setting a Headteacher Challenge – please encourage your child to have a go at these although not compulsory!

We are sympathetic to the demands placed on parents and the problems with technology that can arise but hope that the children can establish good work routines and keep their learning moving forwards. We appreciate there may be some technical issues along the way – please do not worry if you have elements which you may not be able to access. There is a list of websites for you to access on our home learning page that you can use if you are struggling for ideas, as well as a list of activities linked to reading. We will also be in contact in due course with parents who indicated to us that they need support with devices once these are received from the government.

We understand that this situation will affect people in different and unprecedented ways. Your children have been amazing on their return to school this academic year and have made so much progress - for them to continue completing their online learning is imperative. Our intention would be to encourage children to complete the activities set by teachers and to participate fully, but we do understand the various constraints, upon some families, parents and staff – particularly those with young children and older relatives and of course working parents who may or may not be at home.

Staff will try to be available during normal school hours and as mentioned earlier in this letter you will be able to contact them via the website. They will also be in contact via phone over the lockdown to check in with you also. We would ask parents to be sympathetic to the fact that some of our staff may be on rota in school and that they are also parents and under the same stresses as you, so you may not always get an immediate response to an email.

**Safeguarding**

As always if you are worried about the wellbeing or safety of a child you should contact either me or Mrs Osmond (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Choudhury or Mrs Monger (Designated Safeguarding Officers). Mrs Broad our SENDCO and Mrs Green Teacher in Charge of Keevill are also available to contact for any queries.

Our pastoral and safeguarding staff can be contacted on the below emails:

[headteacher@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:headteacher@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

[kosmond@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:kosmond@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

[schoudhury@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:schoudhury@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

[bmonger@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:bmonger@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

[sbroad@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:sbroad@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

[jgreen@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:jgreen@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

If additional assistance is required the following support is available both nationally and locally:

https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/

https://www.childline.org.uk/

https://www.samaritans.org/

https://www.mind.org.uk/

https://www.gov.uk/report-domestic-abuse

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

I will of course keep you informed of any developments through texts and e-mail when there are further significant announcements. The school website will be used for any updates. We are also on school twitter so will use that form of communication too. Once again, please ensure we have your most up-to-date e-mail addresses and contact numbers, these can be sent to the school office via [office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org)

I would like to thank you for your continued support at this difficult time and wish everybody and their extended families good health during the time we now have away from school. We have a great team at Speenhamland – staff, parents, pupils and governors working together for our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Dr C Wilson**

**Executive Headteacher**