

Queen's Inclosure Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs J Allen. B.Ed. (Hons)

www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

e-mail: adminoffice@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Cornelius Drive, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 8NT

Tel: 023 9226 8067

7th January 2021

Dear Parent /Carer,

Firstly, make I take this opportunity to sincerely apologise to all those of you who feel that we have not communicated effectively since the third Lockdown was announced Monday evening. In the days leading up to the announcement, the Government message was resolute that schools would remain open, so we spent our INSET day on Monday 4th January preparing for the return of **all** children. In hindsight, we were perhaps too hopeful and even naïve to think this way and we certainly did not anticipate the announcement of an *immediate* school closure.

Frustratingly, the Teachers2Parents service, which is used as our primary means of communicating with our parents, could not be used initially as the whole nationwide system crashed. We posted a message on our website immediately, but had no way of letting parents know until the T2P service was resumed. Moving forward, we would highly recommend that parents access our website first in any future emergency situation especially if a text message is not received, as we cannot guarantee the service being reliable.

Critical Worker/Vulnerable Child

We have received an overwhelmingly high number of Critical Worker registrations and a smaller number of vulnerable children registrations. We would like to be able to offer more in school places to our most vulnerable children but with class sizes currently averaging 13 to 15 children in each, this is not possible. The high numbers of children attending school increases the risk and potential rate of any transmission of infection.

In order to stop the spread of the virus, we need to minimise the numbers of children and prioritise the school places to those who really are unable to learn at home. Many other schools and even local authorities have taken the decision that both parents must be Critical Workers in order to secure education in school, some are even prioritising Critical Worker job categories in order to reduce numbers. We are aware that we have children attending school whose parent(s) may meet the Critical Worker eligibility but who would be able to keep their child(ren) at home, i.e. those currently on maternity leave, those whose working hours are outside of the school day, those who have another adult at home who is not a Critical Worker and even Critical Workers who are not actually needing to go into work.

Obviously, it is essential that school places are only used when absolutely necessary, to truly reduce numbers and spread of the virus. Whilst we are in the process of checking parents Critical Worker eligibility with employers, we please ask that if you are able to reconsider your situation to help us prioritise places and wish to voluntarily switch to the remote learning offer from Monday 11th January, please use the 'Contact Us' form on the website to let us know that you will no longer be sending your child to school.

<https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/form/?pid=2&form=222>. We really appreciate your support and understanding in helping us to keep our children and community safe.

We understand the difficulties placed upon parents in this most challenging of times, and are working very hard, behind the scenes, to endeavour to support parents the best we can and ensure our children have access to the resources they need to continue to learn at home.

Communication

This week we created two distribution lists for communications – one for parents of children receiving in school provision and the other for parents of children staying at home. We are sorry if

this caused confusion to some parents who received an in school provision letter but who have chosen to keep their child at home this week.

We are trying to manage a huge number of communications with a reduced workforce but will continue to do our best. If you have contacted us and have yet to receive a response, we will be in touch as soon as we can.

Remote Learning

As communicated in our letter dated 6th January (sent only to the parents of children not registered for in school provision), our remote learning offer for this week is available on our website on the '**Learning from home during lockdown**' page under the '**Our Learning**' tab - <https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+from+home+during+Lockdown&pid=160> . We wish to emphasise that this is a temporary format and structure we have provided initially to ensure children were able to continue learning this week.

We also explained in that letter that we are in the process of developing our use of Microsoft Teams. As some of you know, our IT infrastructure was previously hosted by Hampshire County Council – our service with them was decommissioned in July 2020 and we moved to a new provider. Our Office 365 emails are still managed by Hampshire IT, which is restricting our ability to use Microsoft Teams at home. The tenancy of our emails is due to transfer from Hampshire IT to us on 15th January. By close of business on Monday 18th January, our current provider will have created school email accounts for all of our children, which is needed to access Microsoft Teams. **Your child's email address and password will be sent to you, via text, late afternoon/early evening on Monday 18th January and information on how to access Teams will follow.**

For awareness, we refer to the learning in weeks; this week's learning (6th to 8th Jan) is Week 1 and is available on our website. Our learning for Weeks 2 and 3, will be sent to parents via email, from the year group email accounts. Year group emails have been set up to enable parents to communicate with teachers directly during the working day. Teaching staff will respond to emails in school as and when they can but please be aware that the teachers are in class teaching all day whilst also delivering the remote learning offer.

Available from Monday 11th January:

YearF@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Year1@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Year2@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Year3@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Year4@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Year5@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

Year6@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk

The content of the learning that we are offering is closely matched to the curriculum we were planning to deliver in the Spring Term. Many of the tasks are selected or designed by us to specifically support our learners. These are not always easily replaced by commercially available online resources. Our remote learning offer will include short videos of our staff teaching the new learning alongside written explanations, instructions for tasks and QI designed activities as well as links to commercially available opportunities. We will also include a suggested timetable which will provide a minimum of 3 hours of learning activities each day. If you would prefer your child to have online learning exclusively, there are two resources recommended by the Department for Education:

- Oak National Academy <https://classroom.thenational.academy>
- BBC Bitesize Learning at Home <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

By Week 4 (25th to 29th January), we aim to be fully using Microsoft Teams for our remote learning offer. This method of teaching will not suit everyone and we are conscious that not all children have access to their own device at home. We know that some parents, who are working from home, use the same device that their child would need to use to access their learning.

Under the Government's 'Get help with technology' scheme, QI has been allocated 6 devices which we are not yet in receipt of. From our previous questionnaire to parents in the autumn term, we identified the children who are most in need of these. However, if your child does not have access to a device at home for learning, please let us know via the 'Contact Us' form on the website <https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/form/?pid=2&form=222>. We cannot promise to be able to provide a device but will do all we can to help. If we receive further information to help parents with technology then we will, of course, share this with you.

Books and resources for collection – only for children learning at home

The following books/resources will be laid out on tables, outside the office from 9am and 4pm on Friday 8th January:

Year F	1 book
Year 1	2 books and 1 x 100 square
Year 2	3 books + resource pack
Year 3	2 books + resource pack
Year 4	3 books + times table book + resource pack
Year 5	3 books + resource pack
Year 6	2 books + document wallet with resources

Please indicate with a ✓ against your child's name to confirm that you have collected the book/resources for your child. There will be a pen and sanitiser available, but we would advise you bring your own pen.

Some children who receive additional support or resources in school, will have a personal learning pack to collect from the office to help support the learning at home. You will receive a text if this applies to your child.

As always, please remember to wear a face covering whilst onsite. A shortened one way system to the office from Cornelius and Burnside entrances (Aintree Gate will be locked) is in use during off peak times between 9am and 3:10pm to remove the need for parents to walk around the whole building.

Free School Meals

Whilst we are waiting to receive Government guidance on the provision of free school meals for eligible children learning at home, we are looking into the options available to us. Please rest assured that this remains a priority for us, and we will be in contact with those parents by the end of this week to provide an update.

Finally, I would like to thank our parents for their support and understanding during this ever changing situation. We too have experienced our own significant challenges over the last few days and ask that you continue to bear with us while we try and meet the demands of the situation and needs of everyone. As always, we welcome constructive feedback which could help us continue to improve.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Allen
Headteacher