

The Beacon Folkestone

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are into the third week of Term 3 and find ourselves collectively in a national lockdown. We have no information yet as to when this will end and as a school we are planning for every eventuality, but we hope that things may be relaxed for the start of Term 4 on the 22.02.21 and this will be a key sign of improvements in our community. We will all keep our fingers crossed.

We have been working hard to ensure the quality of education for children and young people not currently accessing school. The remote learning which is online or available through packs that we have been sending out is highly valued and reflects the learning expectations and standards we expect in our classrooms.

Please do not hesitate to talk through the learning for your child/young person when the teacher makes their weekly calls to you. We have a small supply of equipment that may help with online or remote learning. Please just talk to your child/young person's class teacher and we will see what we can do to help on a case by case basis.

We have had a few concerns and questions asking if you are still able to keep your child at home this Term when parents and carers feel that the safest place for their child/ young person is at home. I just want to reassure you, as a school we respect the fact that you are following the principles of the national lockdown and you feel it's best for your family to remain at home. No parent/carer will get into trouble because their child is not attending school during this period. I hope that reassures you all.

We are providing in school learning for approximately one third of our pupils: these numbers are allowing us to ensure a safer school environment. We are managing all the measures and regimes of cleaning and support that you would expect. If your child/young person is currently at home with you and you wish to reconsider your choice to keep them at home, please speak with your class teacher during your weekly calls. We are managing our staffing at the moment and are able to balance the staffing levels because of the smaller number of pupils coming into school. We have a number of staff who are now shielding, isolating, unwell or at home because of personal circumstance: this means that we may need some time and flexibility to make sure we can accommodate your request.

Please do not just send your child into school without informing us as we may not be in a position to safely accommodate and support them.

If you need more of an urgent response outside of the weekly phone calls, please do not hesitate in contacting your class teacher directly or the Assistant Headteacher for your child/young person's zone.

Free School meal provision was finally confirmed at the end of last week and the vouchers have been issued. If you would like some support applying for free school meals, then please let your teacher or a member of the MAST team know and we will be happy to help. If you need a little help during these unprecedented times, we hold a small supply of food bags and can arrange for these to be collected from school.

This is the online link to apply for free school meals:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>

We would like to request that wherever possible you wear masks when collecting your child from the members of staff at the beginning and end of the day. We have worked hard to model this for our pupils: all of our measures such as frequent hand washing and distancing from others have created new routines and expectations for most of our pupils and we believe this extra measure would help join up what we are all trying to achieve.

Lastly, an ongoing and big thank you for your support and commitment to work together during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely



Ady Young

