

## The Beacon Folkestone

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is the last day of Term 3 and yet again we have collectively experienced a rollercoaster of challenges that have included an ongoing lockdown and more recently the snow. I think how we have all managed this has shown us how resilient we all can be! The positive stories and successes being relayed during phone calls and communication with you are superb. Hearing the creative approaches to learning and how you have been cherishing the time together has been a pleasure to hear. This communication is largely a reminder of different elements and parts of our communication from the last six weeks.

The early year's team have recently launched an Instagram page, sharing pictorial examples of home based learning ideas. This could be something you can tap into during half term and during Term 4. To have a look, please go onto Instagram and follow us:

[@the\\_beacon\\_homelearning](https://www.instagram.com/the_beacon_homelearning).

We have distributed some equipment that is helping with online or remote learning, this has included laptops and chrome books. Please just talk to your child/young person's class teacher if you need some technological support/help and we will see what we can do to help on a case by case basis.

I have been asked by some worried parents/carers what the schools stance and expectations will be in the first two weeks of Term 4 should the parents and carers still feel that the safest place for their child/ young person is at home. I just want to reassure you, as a school we continue 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 will all reassess the situation when there is any indication that the lockdown will be coming to an end.

We are still providing in-school based 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 still have a number of staff who are 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. It is likely we will need forty eight hours' notice. We do not want to be in a position where a pupil turns up that we are not aware of (due in) and we have to turn you away.**

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.

The Food Voucher system is well underway, many of you will already have received your vouchers for next week. In addition, we have some food distribution happening tomorrow (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February). A huge thank you to the volunteers from school to make this happen and to Marks and Spencer for the food donation. Due to unforeseen issues in their distribution chain, Marks and Spencer have made a great call to distribute the food to some schools rather than lose it or letting it spoil. We are all very grateful of their help and support.

Please remember, 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/>

Although we are heading toward the end of term, the importance of continuing to track and trace any positive COVID-19 cases remains a priority. There is an expectation from the Government that we continue to ensure we are keeping you and our community as safe as possible.

With this in mind, if you do test positive for COVID-19 or are informed you need to isolate at any time during the holiday period (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February) then please contact us to let us know. We can then inform the pupils and staff who may have been a close contact, allowing them to take the appropriate actions to keep themselves and those around them safe.

**The email address to contact is: [Sasha.Gooding@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Sasha.Gooding@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk)**

This email address will be checked between 10am and 11am daily. Any relevant information letters for advice and isolation requirements will be sent out following the receipt of the information. This will be via email or a shorter message in a text based system (where we hold your current and up to date telephone and email information).

The following details are required when leaving an email to log a positive case (if you are using an electronic copy of this letter please feel free to copy and paste this table into your email):

Pupils Name	
Pupils date of birth	
Contact phone number	
Class your child is in	
What date they became symptomatic	
What date the test was confirmed as positive	

What date were they were last in school	
Other pupils (outside of the class/bubble) they may have been in contact with (the two days before they became symptomatic)	
Transport provider – eg parents, shared lift or taxi	
Last date of isolation (where known)	

**Information reminder about “contacts”:**

**Direct close contacts:** Face to face contact with a person with a positive coronavirus test result, for any length of time within 1m, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

**Proximity contacts:** Extended close contact (within 2m for more than 15 minutes) with a person with a positive coronavirus test result.

**Small vehicle contacts:** Travelled in a small vehicle with a person with a positive coronavirus test result.

Identified direct close contacts, proximity contacts or small vehicle contacts should be excluded from school/college/nursery for 10 days from the last point of contact with the case. They should be advised to self-isolate at home, monitor for symptoms and request a coronavirus test if they develop symptoms.

Household contacts of close/proximity/vehicle contacts do not need to self-isolate.

**Household contacts:** This includes anyone who lives/sleeps in the same home as a person. If a household contact has tested positive for coronavirus, then the whole household contacts group are advised to self-isolate at home for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. If they develop symptoms they should be tested for coronavirus.

Lastly, I want to reiterate my thanks and appreciation of our joint commitment to collaborate and work together, putting the children first.

Yours sincerely



Ady Young

