



Newbold Verdon Primary School

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we are now in our third national lockdown and our school is operating online for the majority of pupils. All vulnerable children and Key Worker children are in school and are accessing the same online learning but in the classroom and overseen by class LSAs. The Unit is currently operating as usual but may be impacted by staffing restrictions.

In school the children are in a two class bubble (Y6 & Y5, Y3 & Y4, Y2 & Y1 and EYFS) and they are undertaking exactly the same lessons that are being provided online. The class teachers are responding to all the children at the same time and therefore are not teaching in class in the traditional sense. It is fair that every child has the same learning opportunities. The LSAs are providing support to these children in school as parents and carers are doing at home. Each teacher is also providing two Zoom meetings a week to bring the children together.

We continue to be vigilant in school and are following government advice. The Leicestershire infection rate is currently 381.1 per 100,000 and this is an increase of 9% over the last 7 days. Our local infection rate has increased to 366.8 per 100,000 and continues to rise. We must all continue to follow the lockdown rules to help the NHS Hospitals to continue to function for all of us.

The national guidance allows for children of critical workers to be in school. The safety of your child and our staff is the school's number one priority and the school is having to make decisions about school places. If you have accepted a place in school, please only use it when you are working and there is no alternative support in your family bubble. If a parent or family member is at home you should keep your child at home. The best action that you can take for your child, yourself and the whole community is to keep your child at home if it is safe to do so.

For some of you, we understand that your work is of such critical importance that your child absolutely has to be in school. You are in the front line in helping in this pandemic and playing an essential part in fighting this pandemic for us all. However, if you qualify as a critical worker, but can manage to have your child at home (even for part of the week), please do so.

We are trying to reduce contacts between children and staff. Our staff have their own health concerns and family commitments and the average of our teaching staff is 47 years old. We all have a duty to support and care for our staff. Your cooperation will help in reducing potential transmission of Covid 19 by minimising the number of people on site and to ensure that staff stay well and have the capacity to support the home learning of all pupils.

The Local Authority and Local Resilience Forum has issued new guidance for all schools this week and this has identified specific critical roles that we are to prioritise. This includes families with two critical workers and single parents that are critical workers. We may need to review who we have in school based on this new guidance. Please be aware that we may need to take further difficult decisions in the future. We appreciate your support to help to keep numbers in school low to reduce transmission.

Dragon Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire LE9 9NG

Tel: 01455 822362 Fax: 01455 824913

E-mail: office@newboldverdon.leics.sch.uk

'Dragons fly high, show respect and have fun!'



REMOTE ONLINE LEARNING:

We are currently developing our Remote Learning Policy and this will be added to the website once it has been approved. In the meantime, may we ask that parents try to ensure that children are dressed appropriately before taking part in class Zoom calls. Also, if it is possible please avoid Zoom calling from the bedroom. We realise that some households are busy and this may be a limitation.

FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES

We are going to be changing to the national voucher system as soon as it is up and running for primary schools. This lockdown decision was taken at the last minute and so this national initiative has taken a couple of weeks to be set up again.

Finally, we would all like to thank you for your understanding in what we know is a very difficult situation for everyone. We appreciate that this current lockdown will be causing you considerable disruption to your personal and working lives. Like you, we wish all children could be in school for the sake of their education and well-being. We really do appreciate the pressure that this situation places on all of us but we are acting in the midst of a pandemic. We hope the progress with vaccinations means we can see a brighter future ahead and so there is hopefully an end in sight.

We will of course continue to keep all arrangements under constant review as we progress through this period of lockdown and beyond.

For those families with children in school, please take the time to review your current arrangements and let us know as soon as possible if your circumstances change and you no longer need a place or can reduce your child's attendance on site.

Our best wishes to you all and please stay safe.

Kind regards,

Heather Causon

Headteacher



824913

Dragon Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire LE9 9NG

Tel: 01455 822362 Fax: 01455

E-mail: office@newboldverdon.leics.sch.uk



'Dragons fly high, show respect and have fun!'