

# Update for parents

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

Section 1: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL

## **Remote Learning**

We have reached the end of Week 3 of the school term and the children who are working remotely have been accessing the online provision for just over two weeks. I would like to extend a massive thank you to all our parents and pupils for their fantastic engagement in the online learning. We know it is not easy and we would much rather have the children here in school, but it is great to see their smiling faces on the screen each day! We are very proud of our pupils – well done everyone! Our updated remote learning policy can be accessed:

[https://www.stmarystetbury.com/articles/docs/policies/Remote\\_learning\\_Policy\\_Jan\\_2021.pdf](https://www.stmarystetbury.com/articles/docs/policies/Remote_learning_Policy_Jan_2021.pdf)

I have spoken to a number of parents this week about how the children are finding the remote learning. The vast majority of parents have been very positive. The daily Teams meetings are clearly an important part of the day and enable the children to engage with their friends and teachers more.

Teaching staff are doing their best to respond to the children's work on the online learning platforms. I must stress to parents that we have a large number of children onsite resulting in teachers teaching in school and remotely at the same time. This means that they may not be able to respond immediately to children's posts.

Staff will use the 'like' button to respond to a pupil's work in addition to providing written comments. This is absolutely necessary to prevent staff from becoming overwhelmed. It is the equivalent to 'ticking' a child's work which is perfectly acceptable practice.

We are including attached, suggested timetable for EYFS, KS1 & KS2 children working at home. This does not need to be followed religiously but it can be used to guide the children through the day. The older children have been encouraged to follow the timetable for the school day and for some parents this is working well.

## **Code of Conduct**

Now we are holding more 'live' sessions with children it is important to ensure that parents, pupil and staff agree to some fundamental principles when participating in meetings and activities. We have produced a code of conduct:

[https://www.stmarystetbury.com/articles/docs/policies/Remote\\_Learning\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_Jan\\_2021.pdf](https://www.stmarystetbury.com/articles/docs/policies/Remote_Learning_Code_of_Conduct_Jan_2021.pdf)

Please ensure you read this carefully and share it with your child/ren. We will assume parents and carers are in agreement with these principles. If you do not agree please get in touch via email or phone and we can discuss this further.

The live sessions are **for the pupils** and we would encourage parents to support children, particularly in KS2, to develop their independence whilst, if necessary, remaining on hand for support. Please do not feel the need to sit next to your child throughout the activities and meetings. Whilst we understand parents might have some helpful suggestions for teachers, we would ask that teachers are able to teach without interruption from parents unless absolutely necessary.

We encourage all children learning remotely to attend the daily Teams meetings. We strongly advise parents to encourage their children to be up, dressed and in an appropriate workspace ready to start the day. Children should not be eating or drinking during Teams calls.

### **Safeguarding and remote education**

Parents can access a document on the school website which outlines measures taken to protect pupils and staff during remote learning. This document can be accessed:

[https://www.stmarystetbury.com/articles/docs/policies/Safeguarding\\_and\\_Remote\\_Learning.pdf](https://www.stmarystetbury.com/articles/docs/policies/Safeguarding_and_Remote_Learning.pdf)

### **Devices and internet access**

If you are having problems accessing the remote learning please get in touch with the school office by email. We have a limited number of laptops from the DFE which we can lend to families.

### **Free School Meals**

We have re-introduced the government's voucher scheme to all families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and whose children are not currently in school. If you have any questions about the voucher scheme please contact the school office.

### **Storytime Magazine**

We have purchased copies of Storytime Magazine to be distributed to children in Year 2 who are working at home. Storytime Magazine is a plastic and advert free publication full of lovely articles and stories for children to read. They have offered their magazine to schools at a reduced price during the pandemic and we have taken advantage of their offer.

## **Section 2: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL**

### **School Meals**

Whilst we have limited children in school children have been eating their packed lunches in the hall within their bubbles.

As previously communicated, from Monday, we will be offering hot lunches to the children attending school. This includes those who are eligible for Free School Meals and children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as they receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Parents of children who are not eligible for free school meals in yr 3 – yr 6 can also book a school lunch.

All lunches should be booked through ParentPay. If your child does not want a hot school lunch they should bring a packed lunch. Parents should book meals in the usual way on parentpay no later than 7.45am on the day of the meals being taken. This enables lunch registers to be run at 8am and checked at registration.

New Hot school lunch Menu starting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Spring Menu 2021		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 25/01/2021	Option 1	Macaroni cheese	Sausage & Mash with Gravy	Roast Chicken with stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken curry & rice	Fishfingers & Chips
	Option 2	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese
	Option 3	Jacket Potato with Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Peas	Carrots Cabbage	Swede Broccoli	Cauliflower Green beans	Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert	Marble sponge & custard	Apple Cake	Fruit Rapjack	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Cookie
Week 2 01/02/2021	Option 1	Mexican roll with Wedges	Beef Bolognese	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Piza with Baby baked potatoes	Battered fish and Chips
	Option 2	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese
	Option 3	Jacket Potato with Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Peas Carrots	Savoy Cabbage Cauliflower	Sweetcorn Green Beans	Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert	Chocolate cake with Chocolate drizzle	Oaty Apple Crumble Custard	Orange, lemon Shortbread	Fruit Sponge	Apple, Cheese and Biscuits
Week 3 08/02/2021	Option 1	Cheese & Tomato Piza with Wedges	Meatballs Rice/Mash Tomato sauce/Gravy	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Cottage Pie	Fishfingers & Chips
	Option 2	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Jacket Potato with Cheese
	Option 3	Jacket Potato with Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans
	Vegetables	Coleslaw Mixed Salad	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Peas Cauliflower	Carrots Green beans	Peas Baked Beans
	Dessert	Oaty Cookie	Peach upside down cake with Custard	leed Lemon Drizzle Cake	Chocolate apple sponge	Vanilla Shortbread

Added Plant Power  
Vegan  
Wholemeal

**Available Daily:**

- Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised)
- Daily salad selection

**ALLERGY INFORMATION:**  
If your child has an allergy or intolerance please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross contamination.

### Friday finish

As we are reinstating hot dinners, the children will finish at the following times on **Fridays** starting from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January:

- EYFS AND KS1 – 12.50PM
- KS2 – 1PM.

Please collect children from the usual places.

### Face coverings

Please can I remind all parents that face coverings must be worn when coming onto the school site. Thank you.

## Section 3: INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS

### **Yellow Lighted Bookshop**

We are extremely grateful to the Yellow Lighted Bookshop who have provided some beautiful free books for some of our pupils. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive and generous bookshop in our town. I am sure the children will get great pleasure from sharing these books with their parents.

### **Wellbeing**

Whether your child is attending school or working remotely, it is essential that we all take the time to stay both physically and mentally healthy.

Working with your child at home can be very stressful and inevitably stress can build up within the family environment. Here are some tips to help you if you are supporting children with home learning or at the weekends when there isn't much on:

- Encourage your child to follow a timetable or plan for the day – even at the weekend!
- Keep to regular bedtimes and routines – children need sleep
- Break up screen time with other activities such as colouring, outside play, walks, exercise, construction etc.
- Stay in touch with the school – if you are struggling let us know.
- Let children pursue their interests but limit the amount of time on screen.
- Keep up the reading – share books, magazines, newspapers
- Turn off the news – it can be distressing for children
- Encourage discussions about happy news. One of our parents signposted us to <https://thehappynewspaper.com/>
- If your child is getting upset because something is difficult – leave it and come back to it later.

### **Covid testing for primary school staff**

The government have now rolled out testing for primary school staff. The purpose of this is to identify and staff who may be infected with Covid but are not showing any symptoms. By identifying any asymptomatic people we will be able to reduce the spread of the infection. Staff will test themselves twice a week using lateral flow tests and the results will be reported.

School leaders have been trained this week in the management, administration and reporting arrangements and staff have been trained in how to administer the tests to themselves at home. If a staff member does test positive the school will follow the guidance from PHE and NHS Test and Trace and will take the appropriate action.

There are no plans to test primary school children.

I hope you have a peaceful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Woolley

Headteacher