

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope that you and you families are keeping safe and well. I wanted to update you on recent developments at Reedswood.

As you will be aware, the lockdown and closing of schools will continue for a lot longer than we first anticipated. With this in mind, over the last two week, I have been working with the Reedswood team to further improve **the Home Learning Activities** that are available for your children.

Home learning

You should have received a TEXT UPDATE. I sent a brief text to explain home learning on our website. We have created a new section on our website for **HOME LEARNING**. This section can also be reached quickly through the **NEWS** section too.

We have created a parent/pupil **HOME LEARNING GUIDE**, please take time to read through the details. Also, we have uploaded useful educational resources, Special Needs Support, virtual classes which link to the **CLASS PAGE** too. We have included contacts to a range of services to ensure you are fully supported during this time.

The expectation is that, if your children are at home, they engage with the learning provided every week day. Your children's teachers will be providing daily learning activities from across the curriculum.

This will all be available on **Seesaw Learning Platform** at present, moving to **Google Classroom** once all staff, parents and children are familiar with this new platform. We will ensure that we support everyone as we move to the new platform. Miss Lowbridge our IT lead is preparing materials to support this. We will keep you updated.

We are currently looking into supporting families who, at present, have no wifi and/or no devices to complete this work on. We have based the information collected on your response to a whole school text and conversations that you have had with the class teacher.

As schools are going to be closed for at least another 3 weeks, but almost definitely longer, it is really important that your children continue their home learning daily. We will be tracking all the brilliant work your children do, just as we would if we were all in school. Teachers will be checking children's work daily.

I would like to express my gratitude to you all for helping your children to continue to learn from home, as I know this can be really tricky. This new set of home learning activities started from Monday 20th April. Please get in touch with your child's class teacher if you have any questions you would like to ask. They will be ringing you this week too if you need to ask anything.

Achievement Awards

Every Friday the class teacher will chose a pupil that has worked particularly hard and they will receive a certificate. Please encourage your child to access learning online. Our staff have enjoyed preparing the lessons as we want to continue to support our children.

Free School Meals Update

Last week we applied for our FSM vouchers from Edenred the company that the government are using. This scheme entitles all FSM families to claim £15 per child.

We were told that our codes would be returned within 24 hours for us email to families. Due to high demand we are still waiting for the codes. As soon as they arrive we will email to you. If you haven't submitted an email this is the fastest way we can distribute. Any families without emails will be delivered by post. We have a team of staff preparing for this. We are expecting Free School Meal vouchers to arrive this week.

I appreciate that all Key Stage One pupils are entitled to Universal Free School meals but in order to receive **FSM funding** and your **voucher code** you need to fit in a category listed below:

- Income support
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support Under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get. This is also called the 'minimum income floor'.) If your child is eligible for free school meals they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2023.

NEW: Today I heard that **temporarily**, during the Covid -19 pandemic, this has been extended to include the following:

- *Children of Zambrano carers*
- *Children of families with no response to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights*
- *Children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restrictions.*
- Also, temporarily extended FSM for children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

I wouldn't want you to miss out on your vouchers so if you wish to apply for FSM please contact:

Apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>

There will be updated information regarding free school meals on our website under the FSM section.

Interviews

This week we are interviewing for our new Attendance Administrator. The interviews take place via online TEAMS over the next two days. I will let you know the successful candidate shortly. Mrs Cheadle our attendance administrator left 20 March to take on a new role. We wish her well for the future and thank her for the contribution she made over the last two years.

Stay safe. We miss you all. Look out for our staff message later this week on our website and twitter.