

Headteacher update 1 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well. I thought it would be useful to provide brief updates each week. As you will be aware our home learning section on the website has been developing over the last two weeks. We have now included links to the Oak National Academy which provides high quality lessons each week as well as providing short tasks that will be set up through Google classroom. We will link to the resources that children are familiar with like Purple Mash, Education City and Times tables Rock Stars too. Children have enjoyed using Seesaw to create videos to share stories and verbal feedback. Please encourage your child to complete the tasks set each day. Many thanks for your support.

We've now been able to set up Google Classroom learning platform that enables staff to set work and provide feedback within a private learning community. Everything is in one place and is easy to manage. Children can communicate with staff and with each other within their classroom. This means that not only can we provide feedback easily, we can also promote student engagement. Whilst our primary focus is on creating excellent opportunities for learning, we will also be able to model appropriate online behaviour, which can play a role in equipping children to participate positively in the social media platforms beyond school that are relevant in their lives. Staff can keep track of the activities children undertake and the quality of work submitted and this will enable us to build on prior learning. Look out for your email/text for your child's username and password. Guidance has been created to support home learning and is available on our website.

Free School meals. The full details are in our April newsletter. Our FSM voucher scheme is now up and running. As you are aware we are sending out via email where possible as this is the fastest way to distribute. If we don't have your email, we are texting or posting. We have a small team of staff that have volunteered to help. Thanks for everyone involved. E-ACT have moved to a new provider for checking FSM eligibility and Mrs Johnston is organising the system. If you think your child may be entitled to a free school meal (certain criteria has to be met to qualify) then please email [Donna.Johnston@e-act.org.uk](mailto:Donna.Johnston@e-act.org.uk) for an application form. Likewise, we will be asking all of our families that already claim FSM to complete a form so our new provider has all of your up to date information. We will be sending out renewal forms soon.

Last week we successfully appointed a new Administration and Attendance lead Amanda Perrins. I'm pleased to welcome her to join our team. She will introduce herself shortly and be available at the start of the day in the front office to support Mrs Hammond with morning marks and administration. This will ensure minimum wait times in the front office.

I'm thrilled to announce too that Sam Ruscoe has joined our academy as a HLTA to replace Lisa Goodes. Lisa left our academy in March as you know to pursue a new life adventure. She keeps in touch and is enjoying her new role.

We continue to operate as a HUB from West Walsall with no pupils attending from Reedswood. As soon as I have further details on next steps re: schools opening I will let you know.

In the meantime, please take care and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Regards

Mrs M Lathbury-Cox

