



Tuesday, 26th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we now enter the midway point of this half term, I wanted to write and provide you with an update that the way the school and pupils are managing during this prolonged lockdown period.

Remote Learning

Firstly, let me thank all members of our school community, pupils, staff and parents/carers alike for the way in which we have dealt with the changes made to life in school and home. Undoubtedly, the main way of learning for all pupils is 'Remote Learning' and at Ellis Guilford, we have been reviewing our Remote Learning offer so that it continues to improve, allowing pupils to learn more effectively and engage in their lessons. We have appointed a new senior member of staff to lead Remote Learning, Ms. G Johnson, and already we have seen changes which I hope will be beneficial and useful to both pupils and parents.

We have added a new tab on the school's website - 'Remote Learning' - so that any information can be easily accessed. In this new area, you will be able to find the following:

- A Parents'/Carers guide to Remote Learning at Ellis Guilford School
- A student guide to Remote Learning
- A student guide to Remote Engage
- A student guide to Remote Extra
- How to access Google Classroom at home
- DfE Remote Education Provision Information
- National Online Safety - Remote Learning Guidance

Could I please request that you take the time to look through each area with your child and if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Parents/Carers have already provided the school with feedback on Remote Learning. As a result, we have made the following changes to the way in which lessons are managed, notably:



- Making sure that lessons are uploaded or scheduled on the day of the lesson to avoid 'lesson overload'
- Making sure that Gmail contact between a pupil and member of staff takes place between 8:30am and 4:00pm only.
- Making sure staff award positive achievement points for each lesson to each pupil who engages
- Making sure that we award Student of the Lesson
- Making sure that ALL pupils can contact their teacher for support via Gmail
- Making sure that there are more videos embedded in the lessons, so that pupils can actively listen to explanations from specialist teaching staff. The school is using more resources from the government's recommended Oak National Academy.
- Making sure that we have a process that means every child is contacted every two weeks and some children every week

I'm delighted to say that last week we sent over 400 'Student of the Lesson' postcards home as well as Bronze and Silver Badges for pupils achieving over 300 and 600 points.

Last week over 6,000 points were awarded. We want this to continue to improve, so to all pupils- PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LOG ON EACH DAY, COMPLETE EACH LESSON AND SUBMIT YOUR WORK, SO THAT YOU EARN MORE POINTS.

One of our new and exciting features is Remote Extra: these are 'learning activities' which can be enjoyed by all families. They cover a whole range of 'extended topics' and are set weekly by members of our staff. Please take a look on the website and have a go!

Pupils attending the school

Numbers of pupils coming into school each week continues to grow. We have up to 100 students coming into school daily. Pupils are put into year group classes where we can, and are taught by subject specialist staff in English, Maths and Science. There is always an optional activity they can do in the afternoon also.

We provide a full, cooked lunch each day for all pupils and staff. This is particularly enjoyed by all!

Lateral Flow Testing

The school continues to have a COVID testing centre on site, in line with DfE guidance. All staff who are currently working in school have been tested, whilst



this week we are continuing to test pupils. The school has its own COVID group which deals with all aspects of testing and school compliance. Since we have started testing, all staff have tested negative, whilst one pupil has tested positive.

Food Hampers

The provision of food hampers for pupils in receipt of FSM has been an overall success. Parents/carers have welcomed the range and types of food included in a weekly parcel which is collected from school every Tuesday morning. Our catering team work extremely hard to enable this to happen. A number of hampers are also delivered by staff.

Each week, we also have a very own T.V. chef, Mr Knighton who creates a recipe for the children to do, based on the chosen ingredients for the week. This is available on Youtube: 'Cooking with Mr K!'

This has created quite a media storm! This creative and inventive idea has been shown on BBC East Midlands television and BBC Radio Nottingham.

We, of course, review the provision of food hampers on a weekly basis.

If the government announces a continued school closure after half term, we will contact all those eligible for FSM with further details about ways in which we will manage this scheme moving forward.

Pupil Wellbeing

Pupil wellbeing is a key priority for the school. To this end, a number of pupils are currently being supported by Ms Kelly Soar, pupil counsellor at Ellis Guilford School.

Additionally, regular contact is being made with other pupils where there is either a referral or need from our pastoral team. Our safeguarding team conduct daily home visits also.

We plan to do a wellbeing check with every child each fortnight, some weekly and some daily, again dependant on a pupil's circumstance. Be assured, we are extremely active in supporting pupils where we are aware of the need. Referrals are made by staff, but parents too can make a referral. Please contact the school, and we can ask Ms Soar to contact you and arrange a telephone appointment with your child.



Social Media

Since my appointment as Principal I have been keen to make our social media more relevant and up to date. Mr Collington is now responsible for much of the content that is now available on the school's Twitter and Facebook accounts. This is a further source of information to parents and pupils about the school and what is going on.

Y8 Parents' Evening

This will take place on Thursday, 11th February 2021 as published, from 3:30pm-7:00pm. This will be a virtual Parents' Evening. Further information related to this will be sent out next week about how to make appointments. We have already done a Y11 and Y10 Parents' Evening in this way and have received a number of positive comments from parents about them.

Finally, like you, we are always awaiting further announcements from the government about schools. This is reported in the press and television on a daily basis. We will keep you updated when any further information is published which affects your child and the school, and we hope to see all our pupils in the very near future.

Kind regards,

Mr Chris Keen
Principal