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**Queensgate Foundation
Primary School**



We are here to help...

Dear Parents/carers,

Happy New Year!

What a week it has been. A lot has happened since I wrote to you last Sunday. It turns out that our decision to close other than for Key Worker and vulnerable children was the right one with Boris Johnson announcing the same on Monday evening. Queensgate were lucky that we had an INSET day on Monday and the children did not all come into school for a day.

Please note we are still running Breakfast Club to enable Key workers to get to work on time. Please ring the school office if you would like a place.

Home Learning

We are trying to get the children's learning out to you in a variety of ways.

In Reception and Year 1, please make sure you are checking in with tapestry every day as daily challenges and activities are being up-loaded there.

To access Year 2 and Year 3 work, please go onto our school website and click the tab Children then your child's year group.

Years 4, 5 and 6 work is all on Google classroom. Your child has been taught how to log on.

We have also made up packs for families unable to access on line learning. These can be collected from the front porch.

We learnt many lessons in lockdown 1 and we know that the children came back to school with large gaps in their learning. It is really important that all children access their learning either in school, through technology or through the packs. It is also crucial that the children submit their work back to their teachers so that the teachers can see how they are getting on and set the next work appropriately. We expect everyone to engage in the learning.

The guidance from the Department for Education suggests three to five hours of learning a day depending on the age of the child. For me the most important thing is not the amount of time but the level of engagement and ensuring there is a two-way relationship between the children and their teachers. Please tell the children we expect them to try hard with their work just as they do at school.

If you have any problems with home-learning please email your class teacher in the first instance to talk it through. If you are still having problems please get in touch with Mr Chubb or I by ringing the school on 292872 or emailing enquiries@queensgateprimary.co.uk

It is really important for children to exercise and keep physically active - not only for physical benefits but for mental health benefits. Here is a link with suggested activities

<https://primarypeplanning.com/home-pe/>

Expectations for Home Learners and for working on line

When children are on-line, the same rules need to apply as in school. We have had an issue of a swear word being put on google classroom and other children not being kind to each other. If children misuse the platform we will review their access to it. Please speak to your child regarding these expectations.

Here is a reminder of our School Code.



Queensgate Foundation Primary School



- To use good manners all day, every day.



- Listening to teachers, adults and other children

- Being polite

- Being gentle

- Being helpful



- Looking after ourselves, other people and our school, inside and outside



- To make sensible choices



- Remember to say sorry if necessary

- Always tell the truth



- Be proud of ourselves, our uniform and our school



Working Together for a Successful Future

Please ensure the children follow this on line as well as when they are talking. It will keep them all safe.

Government Devices

Some of you have been asking about laptops to take home having seen in newspapers and on social media that the Government are providing these. We have received two. We have followed this up but they are prioritising secondary schools at this time. We will let you know when we have some. In the meantime, I have been interested to learn that you can access google classroom through X-Box and Play Stations. Here is how...

<https://www.t3.com/news/access-google-classroom-on-your-playstation-or-xbox-heres-how>

Using an Amazon tablet?

I have been researching how to install the google classroom app onto an amazon fire tablet. I have discovered that because Amazon and Google are rival companies, the google classroom app is not in the amazon app store. It is possible to install the app, but you would have to bypass some of the system security settings and I would not recommend this.

What I would recommend instead, is that you use the 'Silk Browser' which is the amazon version of Google Chrome for accessing the web. This has a swirly circular icon which looks a bit like a marble.



See here:

I would suggest opening the Silk Browser app, then going to <https://classroom.google.com>

It should take you to the classroom page. You can see the work set but probably won't be able to fill in a form through it though.

Free School Meals

We are providing Packed lunches for children entitled to Free School Meals who are learning from home. Please email office@queensgateprimary.co.uk if you would like one.

Voucher scheme:

Gavin Williamson said the following in his speech:

I know there is, understandably, concern about free school meals. We are going to provide extra funding to support schools to provide food parcels or meals to eligible children. Where schools cannot offer food parcels or use local solutions, we will ensure a national voucher scheme is in place so that every eligible child can access free school meals while their school remains closed. DfE guidance published yesterday echoes the exact same message.

The LA view:

They have confirmed that it is their assessment from current DfE communications that schools should be providing a hamper or lunches and not vouchers. Vouchers are only to be used if the school is completely closed and there is no alternative.



What's for dinner next week?

(Remember all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Free School dinners.)



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with couscous	Sausages Roll / Mexican Vegan Roll with Wedges	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Maccaroni Cheese with garlic bread	Fishfingers with Chips
Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato
Selection of vegetables	Selection of vegetables	Selection of vegetables	Selection of vegetables	Selection of vegetables
Lemon & Orange Shortbread	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Fruit and Ice Cream	Fruit Sponge Cake	Oaty Cookie

Positive Quote

"The more you read, the more you know, the more you learn, the more places you will go."
Dr Seuss

Wrap Up Warm

We are keeping the windows and doors open to keep the building well ventilated. It's chilly – please make sure the children are wrapped up warm.

Read, Play and Chat

Please remember to read every day with your children, play with your children and chat to your children. Most learning takes place through these activities – read, play and chat.

If you are running short of reading material because the local libraries are closed please contact Mrs Webb on nwebb@queensgateprimary.co.uk and she will see how she can help you.

We are here to help

I understand how difficult this time is for you all; many of you managing your own work and your children's learning. I end this newsletter as I began. We are here to help – please keep in touch!

Best wishes,

Samantha Sillito

Headteacher