Thursday 7th January 2021

**Remote Education**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to clearly set out the school’s provision for remote education during the current lockdown period. As you know schools are open to children of critical workers and also to vulnerable pupils. At the moment, because numbers of pupils in school are quite low we have one *Early Years/Y1/Y2* group and a *Year 3-6* group. Primary schools are required to provide 3 hours learning for all pupils per school day either in the building, if they qualify for a place, or to be accessed remotely.

Remote education is not synonymous with ‘live’ or ‘online’ learning. It is an umbrella term that covers all the ways in which schools can support learning when children are not in school. This includes: paper resources such as learning packs or reading books, phone calls and visits from staff, links to other providers like Oak National Academy or BBC Bitesize, learning that can be downloaded from the school website or VLE (via Log-in) as well as teacher videos of lesson introductions and ‘live’ online teaching.

After the last lockdown we surveyed parents asking for their views on what type of remote education provision they would prefer if a class bubble closed or we had another lockdown situation. The overwhelming majority of respondents stated that they preferred to have lesson-based paper learning resources. Many families do not have digital devices that are suitable or easy to use for learning and often access to broadband is difficult. However, some parents also hoped that the school would, in future, be in a position to deliver either video teaching or live lessons. We were able to combine paper resources, video lesson introductions and class story time and VLE work (including feedback from teachers) during the recent bubble closures. Now we can enhance this offer with live sessions 3 times a day from next week.

All the details of our remote education, including the trust policy are on the website – under **Remote Learning**. Here you can find the weekly timetable for every year group, including the links for live teaching sessions via Zoom, which will start on Monday 11th January. All the key information and documents children need for the lessons are on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which you need to log into and in the learning packs you should now have received.

**In summary**, the main aspects of our **remote education provision** are as follows:

* We have delivered a learning pack of paper resources to every child in school. These resources are for the same lessons that children would have been doing in school during those weeks. We will regularly deliver more paper-based resources throughout lockdown. Children will be able to use these resources in conjunction with the live lessons. Class teachers are phoning every family this week to check you have received the pack and to see whether you need any other support or assistance.
* All the key documents and information in the pack are replicated on your child’s year group VLE page, which you need to log in to in order to access.
* The weekly timetable of lessons, including the main learning objectives, are on the school website (Remote Learning – Weekly timetables and guidance). These have the Zoom links to click on for the teaching part of the lesson.
* There will be 3 lessons per day for Y1 to Y6. These will be at 9, 10 and 11 in the morning. There will be 3 links for each pupil only. One for each session. So, for example, the 9am link will be the same every day. Teachers will also send the three class Zoom links out via text/email.
* For the first week or so, the live sessions will be primarily lesson introductions and then pupils will be asked to complete the work before the next lesson. If children wish to upload their work it can be done via the VLE or they can upload a photo of what they have done. Class teachers will check each day and provide feedback where necessary. There is also a discussion board where pupils can ask questions.
* As we develop the live sessions, children may be able to receive more personalised support from other staff e.g. in breakout rooms. However, at first we want to prioritise access for all and ‘iron out’ any technical difficulties that will undoubtedly occur.
* We look forward to seeing all the amazing work done by the children. Don’t forget to share your school work and any other achievements on the Parents’ Blog: <https://lakesideparentsblog.edublogs.org/>
* Unfortunately, the 40 Chromebooks we received from the DfE to support during bubble closure have all been loaned out. We do not have any more suitable devices to provide at this time.
* We do still have some 3 month free Wifi SIMs available.
* The government are offering free 4G wireless routers that we can order on your behalf. Please contact the office.

Finally, I want to assure you that all staff at Lakeside Primary are working hard to make learning in school and at home as comprehensive and effective as they possibly can. If you are struggling to access the lessons or have any other issues or questions about learning please contact the school office or email the class teacher. We will get back to you.

**Additional information**

* This week we have delivered over 100 free school meals every day.
* From next week, parents in receipt of free school meals will receive vouchers.
* Children in school will be able to have a hot meal from next week.
* If you would like to continue receiving the £2 bag from social supermarket please contact Mrs Stringer or Mrs Smith (see contact details below). These are still available for collection on Wednesdays.

If you have any other concerns or difficulties due to the current lockdown situation please contact the School Inclusion Team:

Mrs S Smith, SENDCO and Inclusion Manager, for SEND and SEMH needs:

sally.smith@lakeside.doncaster.sch.uk

Mrs. R Stringer, Family Support Manager: roz.stringer@lakeside.doncaster.sch.uk

If you have any family support concerns or questions you can also phone: **07424867865** during school hours to speak to Mrs Stringer.

For all other enquiries, including free school meals provision, please contact the school office.

As always, Mrs McCrae and I are available every day throughout the school day if you would like to discuss any issue at all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mr J Bullock

Head teacher