

News from the Federation – 15th January 2021

Thank you again for all your support during this time. Please remember that the current advice is: **if you can, stay at home**. We have had an overwhelming demand for critical worker childcare. If you don't need the provision, please don't take the space of someone who might.

It has been good to see so many children interacting with google classroom and Tapestry. Thank you to those parents who have written to let us know how much easier the new model of home learning is working. We will be holding online meetings with children and classes in the coming weeks. The notification of these meetings will be on the class stream. I know the staff are looking forward to seeing you all.

Please remember when there is a virtual class meeting that children need to be dressed appropriately, as they would be for school, and where possible they should be supervised by an adult. It is very useful if all the children mute when in the meeting and put their hand up to speak using the buttons at the bottom of the screen.

We hope to be providing more interactivity, guidance and support so that children can approach their work more independently. Don't worry if your child is finding something difficult – you can send a private message to the teacher on your child's class work page and we will try to help. Please remember however that many staff are in school teaching critical workers children and it may not be possible to respond immediately.

There are lots of additional sources of support and learning opportunities being provided online and on the BBC. Don't worry if your child doesn't complete all the work. The government expectation is that children in KS1 should have at least 3 hours learning and children in KS2 have at least 4 hours. We know how difficult it is to work from home and teach, support and guide your children so just do what you can, don't worry and keep smiling.

Free School Meals Vouchers and Eligibility

We are delighted to be able to inform you that the DFE have now made national arrangements for the provision of Free School Meals for children. This means that we will be making an adjustment to the next vouchers being issued to ensure that the funding we receive is passed directly onto families. We again thank Marcus Rashford for raising the ongoing issue of free school meals and the difficulties that schools have had to face in adapting to the many changes in guidance.

If you think you might qualify for Free School Meals, please follow this link so that you can sign up to receiving a free school meal/or vouchers if your children are at home during this time.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

Social Distancing and the Park – Police in the Park

We would like to remind all parents to avoid using the park at the end and start of the school day. Children and families mixing in the park defeats the objective of social distancing in a period when lockdown has been implemented to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Today, we have been visited by the local police (who have been notified by concerned residents) to inform us that they will be dropping by to ensure that families social distance (at pick up time) so as not to put themselves and others at greater risk.

Important Update and Reminders

- Breakfast Club and After- School are open (booking in advance is required).
- Our first batch of Free School Meals vouchers have gone out to parents of children who are eligible.
- To ensure social distancing guidance is adhered to, we ask that children avoid congregating in the park after school.
- Please do not change passwords for Google Classrooms as this is causing problems when children are forgetting what they have changed it to. If it is set by the school, we can find it and send it to you.

For those of you who are finding Google Classrooms tricky or haven't used it yet, please find below a link that guides you through it clearly: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kz-4i8QhTmgW7tXb_j6wFtGiQe_z5p6Z/view?usp=sharing

If you wish to access Google Classroom via an Xbox, the link is: [Remote Learning via PlayStation 4 or Xbox One \(office.com\)](#)

Recorded lessons and presentations.

We as a Federation have taken the decision to offer recorded lessons as opposed to live lessons. Our rationale for this is that; many of our children cannot/or may not be able to log in at specified times for various reasons (internet, sharing devices etc.) which means that they miss their lessons and may therefore be at a disadvantage. Children can watch these in their own time and at their own pace, pausing when they need to. If they have any questions, they can post these to their class teacher and she/he will answer them.

As our teachers are also doing shifts where they are expected to be in school teaching; we cannot offer live lessons.

Make it a Happier New Year for children and young people in care

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but even more so for the children and young people who go in to 2021 without a stable home and loving family. This New Year we are looking for people who are determined, energetic and caring, to become foster carers.

Fostering with Cambridgeshire County or Peterborough City Councils means you are fostering with a local authority that truly cares about you and our children. We offer comprehensive training courses both before and during your fostering adventure with us. We also allocate a social worker who will support you and we also provide a 24/7 helpline so you will never feel alone!

Remember if you are a Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council employee and undergoing an assessment as a foster carer for either council, (with agreement from your line manager), you are entitled to additional annual leave of up to 5 days to attend training courses.

So whether you are single, married, retired, working or a full time parent to a birth child YOU CAN FOSTER! Make this a happier New Year for our children and young people. To find out more, call 0800 052 0078, text FOSTERING to 60777, email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering