

Flookburgh C of E Primary School

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Together, we believe,
anything is possible

Friday 23rd April, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Firstly, I just wanted to pass onto you how happy the teachers were to speak to you over the last couple of days and, if you've missed their call, they will still try again to catch up with you. We're all so glad to hear how you're getting on and the efforts you are all going to, to keep safe and healthy. We felt we needed the contact with you and, from the conversations I and the teachers have had, we felt you did too! So, thank you for the great chats!

There are a few things I wanted to update and share with you;

Eligibility for Free School Meals: There has been a lot of information about extending free school meals (FSM) to children of families who might become 'newly' eligible through changes in their circumstances. These changes could be that your work has stopped through job losses, etc and your income has been severely affected. If this is the case for your family, here's the information you need to know:

The guidance document can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Summary of main points contained in the guidance:

1. DfE Vouchers are for 'benefits related' FSM – this means you need to be in receipt of certain benefits due to your level of income
2. The cost of vouchers under this new national scheme will be met by the DfE.
3. Pupils who become newly eligible for Free School Meals will also be supported and need to continue to apply in the usual way.

The eligibility criteria can be found at:

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

New Flookburgh Community Food Club is to be set up in our village: Following the recent success of similar Food Clubs in Grange and Cartmel, a new Community Food Club Drive-through is about to be started in Flookburgh.

More information about what the Flookburgh Community Food Club is all about and how food is distributed to families can be found by clicking the following link:

<https://flookburghcfc.blogspot.com/?m=1>

I've taken a look at the website and it looks really good so, definitely worth checking out.

Schools Re-Opening: There has been a huge amount of talk in the press about when schools will be re-opening and I just wanted to give you an update about how much I, and all other Headteachers, currently know.

We have not been given any information about when schools will be re-opened

The information that you are hearing in the press is just pure speculation and I am concerned about the amount of misinformation that is coming out to families unnecessarily adding to confusion and uncertainty.

I very much want to get our school open as soon as we can to support our children and families to get back to normal as soon as possible however, I simply have not been given any information to indicate when this might be.

I just felt I needed to share this with you as this is a very worrying time for everyone and I wanted to reassure you that, as soon as I know something or there is a government announcement made to all of us, then we will have accurate information to work on a date to re-open. How this will look at the moment, we just don't know. So please bear with us – as soon as we know, you'll know!

Year 6 Transition to Secondary Schools: For our year 6 children and their families, this is a crucial year which unfortunately, has suffered disruption which we could never have imagined only a few months ago. I just wanted to reassure you that, our school will be working very hard to support our Year 6 children with their transition to secondary school as further information comes out to us.

I also wanted to say to our year 6 children and their families, we as a school are determined to celebrate the time your child has spent at our school and will share with you plans that we will have in place to enable this to happen.

Myself and Miss Horne will keep you up to date regarding this as time goes on but, we just wanted to reassure our year 6 children and families, that there will be a celebration for you!

And finally, a huge thank you to all of our children and families for the support you are giving to each other and the fantastic job you are all doing during this difficult time. We are all so very proud of our school and our community and we can't wait to be back together.

As always, look after yourselves and each other and, if you need to contact me directly, please use the school contact email: schoolcontact@flookburgh.cumbria.sch.uk and I'll get straight back to you.

Take care and very best wishes,

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Gill Pett
Headteacher