

Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

We are at the end of what has been an extraordinary week. My spirits are lifted when I read the wonderful comments from you and our students online. The Stopfordian Family are remarkably resilient and I know that we will be able to see this through together. As a family we are working to support all of our students so that they have access to high quality work in terms of their learning and also access to essential services.

The school remains open, overseen by skeleton staff, to provide supervision for identified vulnerable groups and the children of Key Workers only. I would like to express our collective thanks to my colleagues who have continued to oversee this provision thus placing themselves and their families at increased risk. Please can I stress that as per the government guidance, the provision for **Key workers is only to be used as an absolute last resort for children and if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be.** This is to minimise the spread of the virus to others in the community. The school would like to publically thank all those on the front line for keeping us safe and for their selfless actions during this very testing time. We are working hard to ensure that the students that we have coming to school maintain the practice of social distancing. As of Monday 30th March anyone using the provision must provide a packed lunch for their child. Should these arrangements change I will notify you immediately.

During this first week of closure the school has been providing a packed lunch for all those eligible for free school meals. To support the Government with its efforts to reduce movement we will as of next week be moving to a new system. We have been working closely with Enfield Council to ensure that all our families can access their Free School Meal entitlement. Enfield Council in conjunction with PayPoint will be directly contacting all Free School Meal families by mobile phone / e-mail. **Please note in terms of your personal security, you will not be required to disclose your bank details via the council contact. Please do not therefore, give this information to anyone requesting it via email or phone.** If you want to take up this option, you will be asked to sign up to the scheme in order to register interest. Once signed up you will receive a barcode to present at a Paypoint outlet where you can collect your funds covering a two-week period. Please note that as of the 30th March you will no longer be able to collect a packed lunch from the school.

We continue to set work for all students via the Google Classroom platform and have been delighted to see the high number of students engaging with this on a daily basis. The standard of work being produced across all subjects is lovely to see and we are pleased that students are continuing with their studies with such dedication. In addition to the work being set by classroom teachers, our Heads of Year are making themselves regularly available via the platform in order to support students whilst they work at home. We are continuing to award positive points to students for outstanding effort and high quality work and look forward to being able to reward them fully for this once we are able to re-open to all.

It is important that while we are at home we remain positive, but this is not always easy to achieve. Our understanding of what is a normal day is shifting and we are all having to adapt to this rather quickly. It is understandable that the result is mixed emotions. Attached to this letter are four posters that you may find useful in coping with this. Remember that there is always something to celebrate in our wonderful community and our beautiful world.

Finally, I want to wish you and your families good health, enjoy the sunshine from home and stay safe. I will endeavour to keep you updated as we move through this difficult time.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Day