



County Bridge Primary School
Anson Road, Bentley,
Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 0DH
Email: postbox@countybridge.walsall.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs R Patel

**Loving
Learning**

Dear Parents

Monday 20 April 2020

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on our current situation at school & to pass on my regards to everyone - hoping that you are all keeping safe & well.

At the end of week commencing the 23rd March we did not have any children of key workers or vulnerable children attending school & therefore it was decided that school would close completely week commencing the 30th March.

You should have received a text advising you of this & to let you know that if you need to contact the school urgently please 'blog' your child's teacher via Purple Mash or send an e-mail to the address above as staff will be working from home. School has re-opened today (20th April) for vulnerable children & children of key workers.

As some of you are aware, as a school, we need to provide for our free school meal children & so on Friday 27th March these families were provided with a food parcel for the following week. Once school had broken up for the Easter holidays the Government decided that school needed to provide either food parcels or a voucher for our FSM families. However as this was decided after school had finished we had no way of arranging this over the holidays. We are working on a solution this week to arrange further food parcels or vouchers.

However we understand that the ordering of the vouchers has been quite a long winded process & there have been delays with the issuing of the vouchers. We therefore plan to continue with the food parcel plans.

The Council realises that many families may be facing hardship during this terrible time & if anyone requires support, either due to being unable to afford to feed their children or who are self-isolating & cannot get out to buy food, they are working with a number of partner organisations to provide the support you may need. You can contact them by e-mailing :

COVID-19communityhelp@walsall.gov.uk or by calling 0121 380 6690. They will then allocate your case to one of the four locality hubs who will contact you to discuss your needs. They will also be able to provide practical help with things such as shopping, picking up prescriptions or offer financial advice.



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We also realise that circumstances for some of our parents may have changed & who may now be out of work or on a low income. If this is the case you may be able to claim for free school meals for your children. For information regarding the eligibility criteria for FSM & the on-line claim form please refer to the following website:-

<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/forms/Application-for-Free-School-Meals>

The Council are still processing applications - so once you have applied & if you qualify you will receive a letter from the Council & they, in turn, will advise the school to enable us to put arrangements in place for your child.

May we also take this opportunity to remind parents that we expect every child to complete their work on a day-to-day basis as if they were in school. Please encourage your child to follow this regime. It is imperative that children continue with their learning during this shutdown as it will be very difficult for them to 'catch-up' with their work once school has re-opened. Teachers will be sending daily updates to you via Marvellous Me & children will be able to access TT Rockstars & Purple Mash apps.

We will continue to keep you informed of any updates that we receive but if you have any concerns in the meantime, please feel free to contact us via the school e-mail address:- postbox@countybridge.walsall.sch.uk

Thanking you for your ongoing support & all please take care & stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Patel



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