

Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of another especially challenging week, I am writing to you today with further updates of the school's position for the rest of this term. Apologies for the number of letters you have already received from me, but this is an important message and I will aim to keep it as concise as possible.

As you are aware, each time there is a positive case we implement our track and trace system, which identifies all children and staff that have been in close contact with the positive case. You will also be aware that the NHS also operates close contact with positive cases Track and Trace, outside of our school setting.

Unfortunately we are now in a position where our staffing levels have been heavily impacted and we are unable to keep the remaining year groups learning from the classroom. To reassure parents in Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 there are no new confirmed positive cases in your year groups - we will update you should this situation change.

From Friday 11th December all students will be required to move to learning remotely until the end of term.

To clarify, this decision is due to staff being required to self-isolate due to close contact, not because of a high volume of positive cases within year groups.

Children in Reception should access learning through Tapestry. Children in Year 2 and Year 3 should access learning through Seesaw, we will be in touch tomorrow to provide more detail about remote learning from next week. All other year groups please continue to access remote learnings as you have done previously.

Important: If your child shows symptoms or tests positive **between the 11th and 15th December** you must inform the school via office@gordonchildrensacademy.org.uk

Christmas in schools is a special time for children and staff, and we are saddened to have to end the term this way. This measure is now necessary to continue to support our community to stay safe during these uncertain times.

On Wednesday, the Department of Education (DfE) published new guidance on how schools should be implementing their track and trace systems over the Christmas period.

As a result of this guidance the last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December. Online learning will end for this term on the 17th and the school will be closed on Friday 18th December to all children and staff.

The school office will continue to monitor its email and is available for phone calls until 3pm, Thursday 17th December. If you need any help, advice or support with home learning please get in touch. Should there be a need to share an update with families about the return to school, I will inform you on Monday 4th January 2021.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you receive free school meals, Medway Council are working with Chartwells (our school caterers) to provide food hampers for all children who attend Medway Schools. Each hamper will contain a variety of healthy foods with recipe ideas to cover lunch for eligible children for two weeks. These parcels will be delivered to schools and parents will need to collect these. We will contact eligible families next week to confirm collection dates and process.



Thank you again for all your support this term – I hope you are able to have a great Christmas break and spend some time with your family. I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Murphy
Executive Headteacher