



DARLEY AND SUMMERBRIDGE FEDERATION



Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents

First of all, may I please extend a huge message of thanks to all of you for your continued support? The Prime Minister spoke last night of the need to have a continued public effort to beat this virus and at this time of confusion and upset, it is vital that we put aside personal views and work together. Some parents were critical of the action that I took yesterday in announcing our intentions to keep our schools open to only children of key workers and vulnerable children. This decision was seen by some to be premature and unnecessary but it was made to keep you, your children and my colleagues safe. For those parents who emailed messages of support, I thank you.

School lunches will resume for those children in school from Thursday of this week. We have your menu choices so please do not worry if you have forgotten what you had ordered for your child.

A packed lunch for children eligible for free school meals will also be available. Please contact the office via email if this is something that you would like to make use of so that Lynda can prepare a lunch for your child for you to collect from school.

Both schools are operating as normally as possible; we just have a reduced number of children attending in order to reduce the chance of transmission. The children in school are pre-school children, children of critical workers and those that are deemed vulnerable. **I must remind you however, that, if you are a critical worker and work part-time your child should only attend school on the days when you are fulfilling your critical worker role. On days when you are not at work, your child must stay safely at home with you.** This is to minimise the risk of transmission. In the meantime, teachers will be teaching the children in school and supporting children at home where possible although this in itself presents challenges. It is our intention that teachers will contact you regularly to check that pupils are engaging with their work and address any issues they may have with you.

For those parents who are dropping off and collecting their children from school, please do maintain social distancing, wear face coverings and avoid congregating at pinch points. Thank you.

Once again, and for fear of repeating myself, I do understand how you are feeling. As you all know I am a dad too and my children are like many of yours, at home accessing remote learning whilst my wife is trying to work and motivate them at the same time. I know it is far from easy.

I will keep you updated as this week progresses.

Yours sincerely

N.P. Coates