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Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you safe and well. We recognise that these are difficult times for all our families and the sudden closure of school to many of our pupils will have caused extra stress and inconvenience to many of you.

Whilst we had planned for a possible school lockdown since September and have a contingency plan in place for remote learning, the speed at which we had to close school and implement lockdown procedures has increased our workload significantly. The last few days have been incredibly busy in school and the teachers who had already planned all their teaching for this week, have quickly had to adapt this to provide work for pupils at home whilst at the same time teach the children who are still coming into school.

Due to added pressures and tasks that needed to be undertaken this week, many schools across the city closed on Tuesday to all pupils, however we worked really hard on Monday night to ensure that Greenbank remained open on Tuesday to all the children of critical workers. Whilst preparing for this teachers also ensured there was work available on Seesaw Tuesday morning for the children who would not be coming into school.

We were delighted last term that we remained fully open and did not send any class bubbles home, unlike most other schools in the city. Whilst it was great to be able to keep all our children in school, it has placed us at a disadvantage as we have not been able to trial our home learning plans with a year group at time and instead we are having to roll it out to the whole school at the same time.

Since September we have encouraged our pupils and families to engage in their homework via Seesaw and we have also used this successfully to provide work for children who had to self-isolate last term. The majority of our families have been accessing this provision and we have tried to work with all those who have not to find out how we can support them with this. We can already see which pupils have accessed the home learning this week and will be in touch with those who have not in the coming days to see what we can do to help..

Whilst all our home learning has been via Seesaw this week it has always been our intention to provide some face to face interaction with teachers and their classes via an on-line platform and this will be introduced shortly. This however will not take the form of a secondary school model where children log on for face to face teaching with their teacher all day. There are a number of reasons for this. We know that for many families it will be difficult for all their children to access a computer or device at the same time and they will have to share the use with their siblings throughout the day, with many families giving priority use to their older children.

Seesaw gives the flexibility for children to work on-line at a time that is convenient to you. We have already noticed that many of our older children are using it in this way and uploading their work of an evening. Seesaw is already providing a means for children and teachers to interact which was something we were not able to do during lockdown earlier last year. There will be teething problems and you may find that the work appears too difficult or too easy for your child at the present time. Your child's teacher has been teaching them for the last term, so has already got them know them well and will be trying to pitch work at the appropriate level. However we all recognise that teaching and learning remotely is very different to being in school and difficult for both the pupil and teacher.

Some of you may feel the work load is overwhelming, but you can decide how much your child should do in any one session. You may wish to chunk it into small amounts throughout the day or move onto another piece of work. Others of you may think it is not enough, but it is only by working through this process that we will iron out any problems. If you or your child has any problems or concerns please leave a brief message on Seesaw and a member of staff will get back to you. All our staff are still in school and teachers are teaching the children in school, but they will also be logging onto Seesaw throughout the day and responding to the children at home.



We have put together a resources pack for every pupil which contains basic stationery/ resources. The contents will vary depending on the age of the child. We will be in contact with you shortly with further details of when to collect these. We will also be in touch with parents shortly regarding free school meals. We are just waiting for further information to come through at the moment.

Please be reassured that we care greatly about the education of your child. We know that this has been a very disruptive year in their education and we will be doing our utmost to ensure that we can provide the best quality education to them in these circumstances.

We are sure there will be further questions and queries regarding both Seesaw, individual work and our face to face provision and we will be giving further information and support soon. At this moment our priority is to ensure that every child is able to access learning be that in school or at home.

Children who are attending school

As advised by the government we are staying open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. For those of you whose children attended the Hub during the last lockdown, you may have noticed that some aspects of our provision are different this time. During the first lockdown the Hubs were created primarily as childcare provision, whereas this time the focus is on providing a full education for the children. With this in mind we have decided that school hours will remain the same as last term. You should drop off and collect your children as you usually do from Mossley Avenue or Arlington Avenue. You can drop your children off from **8:40 -8:55am** and pick them up from **3:00 – 3:20pm**. We ask that you ensure your children are punctual for school, as lessons for all pupils will begin at 9am and that your child attends school 5 days a week. Children will be expected to wear school uniform and lunch will be provided as usual. If your child is unwell and unable to attend school please could you notify school. It is vital that you inform school and keep your child at home if they or a member of your household display symptoms of COVID-19. In this situation, if you are unsure of what to do please contact school and we will be happy to advise.

At the present time we are unable to offer any before or after school childcare provision, but this is something we are looking at and we will notify you if this becomes available.

We would just like to remind all parents that whilst Greenbank is closed to many pupils, it remains open during usual school hours for parents who may need to contact us by either telephone or email. We will also remain in regular contact with you during the coming weeks, so we ask that you regularly check the Parent App and the school website.

We cannot thank you enough for all your support this year in such difficult circumstances. Let's hope this lockdown is the last and we can return to life as normal and have all our children safely back at school.

We will be in touch again soon, in the meantime please stay safe.

Best wishes

Mrs Wrigley and the staff of Greenbank

