

# Featherstone Primary School

## Weekly Home/School Newsletter



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all safe and well. As always, this week's newsletter has a lot of important updates and information for you.

### **Free school meals (FSM)**

This week, Mr. Douglas organised for the Edenred FSM food vouchers to be delivered to those families who are entitled to benefits-related FSM. These vouchers provide funds up to and including 12<sup>th</sup> February. We are really grateful to the government for funding this to help out our families. If you have an FSM query, please contact Mr. Douglas at [n.douglas@feathstn.bham.sch.uk](mailto:n.douglas@feathstn.bham.sch.uk)

### **Food parcels for working families only of EYFS/Y1/Y2**

All children in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to universal free school meals (FSM) regardless of benefit entitlement. As you know, we have issued vouchers for children in Key Stage 1 who are entitled to FSM but those families that work do not receive any help. Therefore, we have taken the liberty of speaking to our catering company (Direct Services), to see if they can provide food parcels for families who are working but need a bit more help. Our catering company have agreed to provide this. If you order a food parcel, you will need to collect this parcel from school every Friday morning, starting next Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January.

If you would like to order a food parcel, then you must meet three requirements:

1. You **must not** be receiving the government's Edenred food vouchers.
2. Your child **must** be in Reception, Year One or Year Two (Key Stage One).
3. Your child must **not** currently be coming to school.

[Please follow this link](#) and complete the form if you would like to order a food parcel for next week. The form will close early on Monday so please do get your order in before then.

### **COVID-19 Staff testing**

Starting next week, in-line with the Government guidelines, school staff are going to be taking COVID-19 tests twice per week. The purpose of the testing is to identify those staff who may be positive but are not showing any symptoms and therefore, taking these tests will stop the spread of COVID-19 even quicker. If school staff test positive for COVID-19, then this may have implications for bubble closures in school. As a school, we will always endeavor to keep you updated at the earliest opportunities.

### **Google Chromebook laptops update**

This week, we took delivery of 171 Google Chromebook laptops with a few more to still come! Mr. Silvester is working very hard behind the scenes getting these Chromebooks ready to give out to all of the children in

Key Stage Two. There is a bit more work involved and parents, you will need to watch some training videos as well as sign a home-school agreement for the long-term loan of these Chromebooks. But, as always, we will keep you updated with this.

### Home/Remote learning and Live Sessions

We were very excited this week to change our approach to the home/remote learning. The children now receive pre-recorded English and Maths lessons from their class teachers as well as a pre-recorded Spanish lesson from Mr. Douglas. Of course, there are the weekly live sessions too every Monday. It was so great to see all of the children’s virtual faces and hear them talking to one another and their teacher.

Parents, I completely understand that managing home learning is incredibly tough. The teachers are working very hard to make sure that the home learning is as engaging and as exciting as possible. Please can I ask that you are engaging with the class teachers and sending work back as often as possible.



### Place2Be

On Monday, something really exciting happened! Four of our children virtually took part in some filming with Place2Be and BAFTA as part of Mental Health week, which starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. The children spoke to a few celebrities (including Matthew Lewis, who played Neville Longbottom in the *Harry Potter* films) all about how they express themselves. The children were a bit nervous to begin with but they did themselves – and the school – really proud. Thank you and well done to Eden, Fatimah, Mekhi and Elisha for being so brilliant!

### Early Years

Just like all other assessments in primary school, the ‘official’ end of year assessment for the Early Years Profile has been cancelled by the government. When the children return to school full time, the early years teachers will continue to teach them and make learning as fun and as exciting as possible. All of their assessments will still be given to the Year One teachers so that the children can make the best start to Year One.

Have a lovely weekend. Stay safe.  
From Mr. E. Gaibee (Headteacher)

**Here are the Place2Be/BAFTA children with their ‘express yourself’ hats! (Made by themselves)!**



Here are some home learning photos:



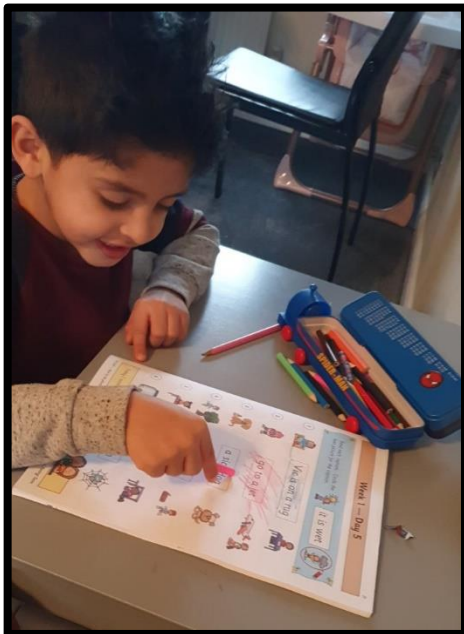
Here is Khadija, working hard. She misses her friends a lot.



Michael logging onto his live session with the rest of his class.



Radha writing up her English homework.



Left: Ahyan doing his phonics.

Below: Jessica made this amazing fire engine with only a TINY bit of help from Dad!

