

Featherstone Primary School

Weekly Home/School Newsletter



15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Collection from school

From next week, all critical worker parents will have to collect children at 3.30pm and not earlier. This is because, in line with Government guidance, we are operating with far less staff on site and we can only facilitate one dismissal. We also need to manage and restrict the number of visitor contacts we have in school. Thank you for working with us.

Free school meals (FSM)

For the past two weeks, parents who are entitled to benefits-related free school meals (FSM) have been ordering food parcels to collect from school. I am pleased to say that the Government are re-introducing the voucher system. Parents who are entitled to benefits-related FSM will be getting a voucher from 'Edenred,' the company who are distributing the vouchers on school's behalf. This voucher can be spent at many supermarkets in exchange for food for children. The vouchers will give these families £15 per week, per child, from next week up to the week of 8th Feb 2021.

- If you have one child entitled to benefits-related FSM, you will get a £60 voucher.
- If you have two children entitled to benefits-related FSM, you will get a £120 voucher.
- If you have three children entitled to benefits-related FSM, you will get a £180 voucher.
- If you have four children entitled to benefits-related FSM, you will get a £240 voucher.

Mr. Douglas will be writing to you separately about this. In the meantime, if you have changed your email address recently, please do let school know by emailing him directly n.douglas@feathstn.bham.sch.uk

Google Chromebook Laptops

We are very lucky to have recently placed an order for £70,000 worth of Google Chromebook Laptops. School have paid £60,000 towards this. This means that, shortly, we will be in a position to give all children in Key Stage Two a laptop on a long-term loan. There will be more information to follow about this and a user agreement that you must agree to but I'm sure that you will agree that this is very exciting!

Home/Remote learning and Live Sessions

You have had a few emails this week with important updates about home learning and live sessions from next week, where there are lots of exciting changes! If you need to re-read any of those letters again or you have lost the original email, [those letters can be found here](#).

From next week, teachers will be emailing pre-recorded lessons and there will be a live lesson every Monday.

As before, we ask that any work the children complete can be scanned or photographed and sent back to the teachers by 3pm, wherever possible, so that they are able to offer marking/feedback for your children. Please note, we know that you are working very hard with your children at home and we know that you won't always be able to send the work back daily by 3pm. This is absolutely fine. Please send back what you can, when you can, as often as you can. If we do not hear from you, we will be getting in contact with you to see why home learning isn't being sent back. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dinners

Unfortunately, children of critical workers have not had hot meals on-site this week due to the COVID-19 closure of the kitchen on Monday. This closure was due to a member of staff in the kitchen testing positive and in-line with Government guidelines all kitchen staff had to self-isolate. I'd like to thank our critical worker parents for being so understanding with this matter.

Snow: A reminder

In the event of school needing to close due to bad weather, an announcement will be made to parents via text and email. Following this, we will then inform Birmingham City Council and the Radio broadcasters, who will then publish this through their websites and school closure announcements. Please can I ask parents not to call school to ask if we are open— if you **do not get** a text from Groupcall Messenger, then school is open as normal.

The closure of school is not an easy decision to make; several factors have to be taken into account, i.e. safety for parents to get children to school, accessibility onto school site, heating conditions, staffing numbers in school and also assessing if the weather is going to worsen during the day. All these factors have to be considered before the final decision is made by 7:00am.

If school is open and it has snowed, we can only grit the pathways on school grounds. The Council is responsible for gritting the road and not the school.

Books

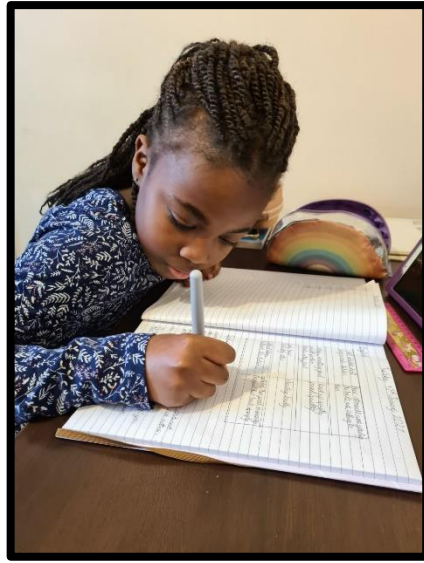
Mr. Douglas and I hope that those children who received a book 'goody bag' before Christmas are still enjoying their story books, fact books and atlases! Please do make good use of them!

And finally...

Parents, this is a very worrying time for us all. We are working hard in school to keep numbers to an absolute minimum to ensure that the partial school closures are effective. However, we had to close a bubble yesterday. The virus is still dangerous. Please do take care of yourselves and your families so that we can return to a level of normality soon.

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

Enjoy these few home learning photos...



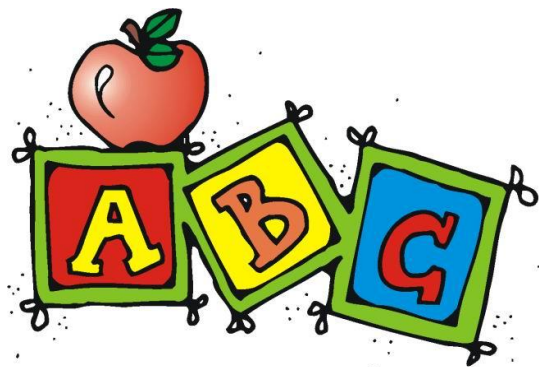
Sisters Isabelle and Jessica doing a super job on their home learning!
Keep going girls!

Jazmin working very hard in lockdown!



Above: Radha using YouTube to learn the piano!

Here is Khadija, studying hard!



Left: Hannah has not complained ONCE about any of her work!
Great Values!

Right: Ahan using Duplo blocks to make numbers.

