



# Coates Primary School



Coates Primary School  
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15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on a range of aspects and advise you of our expectations on remote learning.

## School provision for Vulnerable and Critical Worker pupils.

All teachers and TA's are currently working in school providing classroom teaching alongside remote learning. It is crucial that we work hard to limit the chances of any bubble in school needing to close. Bubble closure will occur under guidance from Public Health if a member of staff or pupil in the bubble test positive for Covid19, or if we do not have enough staff to cater for the bubble. We recognise that we have an important responsibility to support efforts to fight this virus by making the school available to those children whose parents are Critical Workers. It is imperative that parents follow the guidance from our government and keep their children at home if they are able to do so.

## Remote Learning

Learning from home will be an entirely different experience for each and every family. We recognise this and we will work with families during these difficult times to ensure they feel as supported as possible. It is very difficult to ensure the balance is right between expectations for remote learning set out by the Government and the individual needs of all our families. We do not want our learning offer to cause undue anxiety or stress for our families. I think it is important for parents who are worried about their children's learning to remember that children are often learning more than we realise academically as well as aspects of kindness, empathy, patience etc. Please bear in mind that the expectations set by the Department for Education for remote learning must be adhered to by the school, but this does not mean you have to complete it all if that is not possible. (Please prioritise where possible the key English and Maths sessions provided.) Teachers worry that parents will complain they have not set enough work or too much work and so they are sending home what is expected of them. Please keep in touch with your child's teacher via Tapestry or Google Classroom if you have any questions. Myself and Mrs Lemmings within her pastoral role can provide additional support for families who are still not feeling confident after discussions with the class teacher.

## Loan of Devices

Following the Parentmail Form sent earlier this week, we will be notifying the parents of those pupils we are able to loan a school Chromebook to by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>. As you will understand we have a very

limited number of devices which we can offer, and we are only able to loan to pupils who meet the school's criteria. We have not currently received any devices from the government to support this so we are working incredibly hard to provide devices where they are crucially needed. We will not be able to loan devices to pupils who are attending school under the Critical or Vulnerable criteria as they will be accessing the learning whilst attending school. However, if pupils require devices for set days whilst they are not attending school please contact me to discuss this further.

### Free School Meals

The Department for Education is now allowing schools to issue vouchers for Free School Meals, and we will be using Edenred vouchers once more as these offer more choices for online shopping, and we have been told they are easier to use. If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will have been contacted regarding this scheme.

If you are not currently eligible for free school meals but would like to apply, please use the link below. It is a simple process and you will be notified of the outcome quite quickly.

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

### Message from the Local Authority

#### **Make it a Happier New Year for children and young people in care**

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but even more so for the children and young people who go in to 2021 without a stable home and loving family. This New Year we are looking for people who are determined, energetic and caring, to become foster carers.

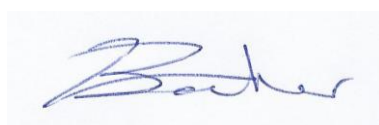
Fostering with Cambridgeshire County or Peterborough City Councils means you are fostering with a local authority that truly cares about you and our children. We offer comprehensive training courses both before and during your fostering adventure with us. We also allocate a social worker who will support you and we also provide a 24/7 helpline so you will never feel alone!

Remember if you are a Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council employee and undergoing an assessment as a foster carer for either council, (with agreement from your line manager), you are entitled to additional annual leave of up to 5 days to attend training courses.

So whether you are single, married, retired, working or a full time parent to a birth child YOU CAN FOSTER! Make this a happier New Year for our children and young people. To find out more, call 0800 052 0078, text FOSTERING to 60777, email [fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)

Thank you again for your continued support and please let the school know if we can offer any further help.

Kind Regards



Mrs L Boucher  
Headteacher

