

**Breakspeare School**

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11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you for your continuous support during this academic year and this spring term. At the beginning of the term the number of COVID-19 cases rocketed in the UK and the government implemented stricter measures to nationally control the global pandemic.

As with all schools, we reviewed our risk assessment in line with the national guidance and altered our provision to maximise safety within the community by minimising the number of staff and students at school. It has been very reassuring for us when liaising with you about your child's school arrangements and the remote learning support; you have been incredibly flexible and supportive. This collaboration has enabled us to provide school placements for the maximum number of students. Thank you!

Please continue to communicate your wishes for your child's schooling to us. We do our best to support you and your child during this difficult time. Please also express your concerns and worries – otherwise our support may be unnecessarily late.

This week we have provided fruit and vegetable boxes for families in need. This 'Winter Grant' support is possible due to financial support from Watford and Three Rivers Council. Please contact Darren if this is something that would support your family.

We have experienced some issues with the configuration of the iPads and tablets that have been donated to our schools to support our students' home learning. This has been very frustrating as tablets, as opposed to computers are more suited for some of our students. We are working to resolve this issue. On a positive note; we have received more laptops from the DfE; please discuss with your child's teacher the computer's suitability for your child's home learning.

We direct some of our families to our family support worker on an ongoing basis. Caroline can help with external support or benefits in liaison with you. Some mothers or fathers have appreciated an opportunity to discuss with someone other than social worker or a family friend. If you think that this would be helpful please contact Darren or myself.

Thank you to all mums and dads who have worked closely with our teachers when organising and delivering remote learning for their child. The decision to start using MS Teams Classroom as our online learning platforms was the right one. It has worked really well for our students as it provides easy access to interactive learning and enables timely communication between the parents and their class teacher. However it is not suitable for everyone and our teachers are happy to continue providing alternative resources when appropriate.

The current schooling arrangement is in place until 8th March. The government has promised that schools will be given two weeks preparation time to alter their organisation when further changes are announced. We are very much looking forward to having more students at school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Lastly, if during the half term break your child develops COVID-19 symptoms; or needs to self-isolate due to his/her COVID-19 diagnosis or being in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 please inform us as a matter of urgency by calling

- Mob: 07342 884625 (Saturday to Wednesday)
- Mob: 07776 534434 (Thursday to Sunday)

Thank you for playing your part and helping to keep our school safe by following current Government guidelines during the national lockdown.

It's so important that we don't become complacent during half-term so we can all enjoy the break and hopefully come back to either remote, or face to face learning (for children considered vulnerable or children of critical workers) safely.

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the attached leaflet with you as a reminder of what we all can and cannot do during the lockdown restrictions. Please do take the time to read it and remind your children that for now, we all have to play our part to protect ourselves, our families and our friends.

Wishing you all a good half term break. Be safe. Take care.
Merja

