



# Notice to Parents 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020



## Key Messages

- Change to Years 2 and 3 exit route and start and end times from next Monday
- Plea to keep 2m distant from each other before and after school
- Reception Nativity planned but Year 2 performance not taking place.
- Plea for cooperation to get SeeSaw and Reading Bug in operation at home.
- Reminder to inform teacher if it is a problem to access on-line learning
- Information on Emergency Grants

After a wet half term break, it will be good to have all year groups back. We encourage all families to keep bringing the children to school whenever possible as children thrive on routines and the social environment. If you have more spare time at home due to lockdown, please consider including reading aloud to your children - it is something that *all* children love, even independent readers - and it will build a memory they will treasure.

As you know, we have experienced having to send year groups home to self-isolate, something we hope not to have to repeat. Junior classes are remaining seated in rows, adults are helping each other stick religiously to the 2m distance outside of year group bubbles, creating ways for part time staff to teach from a distance and we will be seeking ways to avoid using supply staff, though this is not always possible.

Whilst we do our best to keep children in school, we want to ensure everyone is familiar with the remote learning platforms See Saw and Reading Bug in case we are forced into a remote learning situation. Thank you to the many who have registered already; Miss Dixon will be following up those who haven't this week. Next week, teachers will be using SeeSaw to send out spelling homework and you will be asked to return a task to see that everyone can do this and then teachers will include a maths task the following week. Staff are on a steep learning curve preparing on-line learning and unfortunately, we are having to ask you to join us on this learning journey. More instructions will follow. Please feel able to share hints and tips with each other if you find any. We have discovered that the best way for younger children to complete and return work to teachers is for them to complete written work on paper, photograph it and return this - rather than trying to use a mouse or trackpad to write.

You may recall the government allocated funds for laptops to support remote learning. When we had more than the requisite 15 pupils self-isolating before the break, we tried to access the allocated 14 laptops but the DfE computer system didn't respond, despite numerous phone calls. More frustrating was an email after school Friday to inform us that the allocation had been reduced to 3. I have written to our local MP regarding this poor provision to support home learning. In the meantime, we reconfigured some school iPads for home loans, although home wifi is needed for this to work. It is better if we know who may need them before they are actually needed so please let us know if this may be the case, so we can prepare.

Due to safety concerns on the Huntley Close exit path in icy weather, FROM MONDAY, a change is being made to the exit route and school times for Years 2 and 3.

Acorn, 2S, 2H 4H	1R, 3HoR, 5C	Chestnut, 2H, 3HoR, 3HuR, 4F	1V, 3HuR, 5F	Year 6
8:45am	8:50am	8:55am	9:00am	8:45-9:00
3:05pm	3:10pm	3:15pm	3:20pm	3:23pm

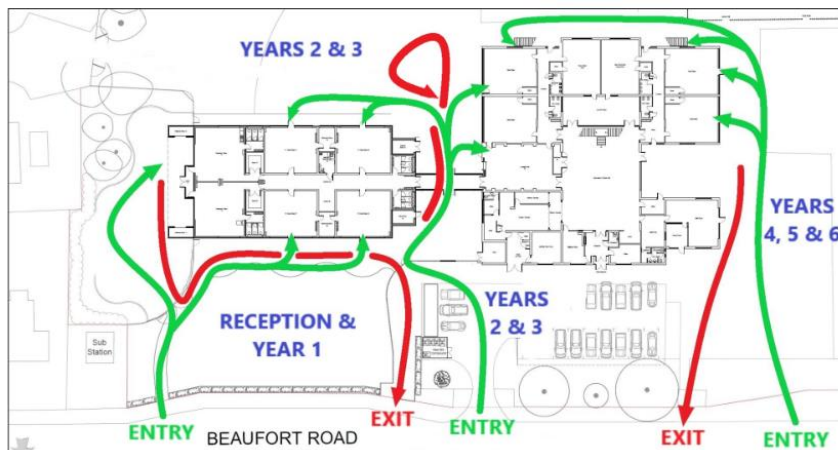
Changes are highlighted.

**Both Year 2 classes will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:05pm**

**Both Year 3 classes will start at 8:55am and finish at 3:15pm**

Years 2 and 3 will enter in the same way, through the car park, link corridor and then spacing out at least 2m distance from each other and the classroom doors. However Year 2 and 3 parents will exit back through the link corridor past the bike shelters and out onto Beaufort Road via the main entrance/exit. Please wait if you see others coming in the opposite direction through the link corridor.

Also - it is important for Year 3 not to arrive early to avoid close contact.



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Unfortunately, swimming which was due to start on Friday for Year 5 is cancelled. Also, Year 2 won't be performing on stage in December. Reception will however, practice and perform a Nativity story to year group bubbles and this will be filmed so reception parents can enjoy this. We hope you took a look at the children's work inspired by Great Artists on our public Facebook site (you do not need to be a registered user to see our Facebook posts)

## Struggling to afford food and other essential items due to financial hardship caused by Covid-19?



If there are changes in your financial circumstances, Free School Meals may be an option available to you. Calling 01524-581180 would be the easiest way to check and register if eligible.

**Support available for short-term living costs such as food, gas and electric, school uniforms and essential household appliances.**

To be eligible for the scheme you must be:

- a resident of the Lancaster City Council district and aged 16 years or over
- on a low income or in receipt of one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Income Support or Pension Credit

Here is information on the local Emergency Grants that have become available this month.

**Call (01524) 582000 Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm**

We are doing our best to keep the children's time at Great Wood active and enjoyable and we hope to stay open. Our staff includes children and adults in the vulnerable categories. Please help keep everyone in our community safe by following the guidance-track and trace will include those you are within a meter for more than a minute, even if wearing masks. Although it may be natural to have a quick word with a teacher please use telephone and email to pass on messages and avoid coming into the school office.



Thank you for your co-operation.  
This too will pass!

John Ross, Headteacher