



# Chase Side Primary School

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Week Fifteen

Happy New Year, let's hope things get better in 2021!

Well what a start to 2021, I'm sure that you are keeping up to date with the changes the Government are making to expectations at the moment. In the last 10 days we have sent you information related to:

- Children who are entitled to free school meals and the options that we have to ensure that no child goes hungry. Different schools are in different situations related to their catering provider and staffing, we are lucky enough to have our kitchen staff on site so we are using them to provide daily meals or hampers but these choices cannot be changed once they have been made.
- Providing laptops (on loan) so that children can access the remote learning especially the Live Lessons on Microsoft Teams. Initially these were offered to families who we knew were accessing through a phone or not accessing at all but we still have a few left. If you have technical issues, please phone on Tuesday to speak to Miss Kaye.
- Providing information on how you can get additional free mobile data (specific mobile providers) if you are accessing the remote learning through a mobile phone hot spot.

All of these options have very tight time frames so please respond by the deadlines we are providing.

I have spoken to the Friends of Chase Side team who are working on the computers that they were offering free of charge to families who requested them, they have had a few technical issues but hope to be able to provide at least some of these soon. They will be allocated in the order that requests were received.

During both this and the previous National Lockdown we have been proud to be supporting our vulnerable and critical worker children and we will continue to do this. However, we have been asked by several families if their children can return to school. I want to be clear that as a school we are fully committed to;

- Offering provision for critical workers who would not be able to do their jobs if this provision was not available.
- Be able to offer face to face provision for our most vulnerable children.

It is vital that we enable key workers in those critical areas to be able to do their jobs. Our staff and Governors are fully committed to this. However, this provision should not be used for the following:

- Where there is a parent/carer at home



- To enable parents to work from home without interruption.
- Because parents feel the best way for their child to be educated is in school.

Many parents are struggling with juggling working from home and supporting their children's home learning. I am very sympathetic to the situation that many of you are in and am aware of the additional pressure this puts families under but the intention of the provision is not to enable parents to work from home more effectively.

Hopefully once the Government guidelines are set and we all start to get used to our 'New Normal' things will start to get easier for all of us.

Stay safe.



Miss Melanie Scull  
Headteacher

