

# WEEKLY NEWS

**From the Headteacher: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope that you and your children are managing to adapt and create a daily routine which includes our online Google Classroom program. In spite of the current climate in which we all find ourselves, behind the scenes we have been working to ensure that the move to virtual schooling is as smooth as possible. We know that our children (and you) have had some experience of virtual learning at Paxton and for those children who have actively engaged, we are very proud of the progress they have made and the way they have adapted to the daily requirements of online learning.

Since September we have spent a lot of time developing our remote learning offer. During the Autumn term staff underwent training and have developed their knowledge of the technology and how various platforms can enrich and enhance the children's learning.

Within this newsletter we aim to share key points regarding our remote learning provision as well as the expectations for our families during this lockdown. The information is intended to provide clarity and transparency about what to expect from remote learning while Paxton Academy is only open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.

We are aware that all family set ups are different and there may be some limitations for families. We know that parents may have younger siblings to care for, more than one child or working themselves, to name just a few examples of barriers they may face.

As a school we ask all families to do their best to ensure that their children are able to fully access the learning. In homes where we see that children have not accessed home-learning at all, please note we will take direct steps to support the family; **denial of a child's education is considering a safeguarding concern.**

If you have any issues accessing technology or any other barriers, please do let us know and we will try our best to support you.

I would like to thank all staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare lessons for the children who are in school, as well as remote learning for children who are currently at home.

A huge thank you to all families who have been supportive thus far in completing the work set.

We realise that this is different to our normal routines. We know that it is not easy but it will be worth it and together we can do this. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will welcome the children back on site. Thank you in advance for your unwavering support – it is not taken for granted.

## **Critical Worker School Provision**

For those children who have parents working as critical workers, we are asking parents to update us via a weekly questionnaire, confirming which days they require their children to come in the following week and if they want a hot lunch to be provided at school.

Whilst these questionnaires will be sent out weekly it is preferable for children to be in school for the entire half term, but we understand that with for example, shift work patterns and furlough etc. this is not always possible.

## **Keeping In Touch**

If you or your child are finding it difficult to adapt to and/or access online learning please do get in touch either via the phone or by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/Pirv1pczRTi6Qbrm9>

The office staff will be available to help you as best as they can from 9am – 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, or will forward your question on to another member of staff who will contact you during the day.

Class teachers will also be in contact with families via phone. Please take this opportunity to discuss any concerns or difficulties you or your child may be experiencing.

### The Daily Routine

During this current lockdown, each day teachers will upload a daily timetable and lessons will begin at 9am. To help keep all children following a 'normal school day' where possible we suggest families try to:

- treat every day as a regular school day and get up at the same time each day
- have a shower, eat breakfast and then try to follow a regular timetable as much as possible
- include regular breaks during the day
- include some form of physical activity during the day
- keep hydrated whilst working

### PE with Jo Wicks



Each day, whether at home or in school, part of the daily timetable will be a daily workout. Last week Joe Wicks announced he is bringing back his PE program for children to keep fit over lockdown.

This week he relaunched the free live workouts on YouTube to help young children and families get fit. Just like last time the exercises are specifically designed for children and the sessions can be streamed live on Jo's YouTube channel 'The Body Coach TV' at 9am three days a week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 20 minute sessions. You do not need any equipment, so why not join in!

### Family First Magazine

At Paxton we love any opportunity to read and learn new things. Here is your free e-copy of Family First magazine, packed full of information to help your children to be happy, learning and entertained at home during lockdown – we hope it helps in some way.

Please click on the link below:

[https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff\\_issue\\_7\\_digital211220](https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_issue_7_digital211220)

### Free School Meal Vouchers

In line with guidance from Croydon Council we have decided to issue Free School Meal vouchers to children who are entitled to Free School Meal based on FSM eligibility criteria. This will commence from 4<sup>th</sup> January. Vouchers for w/c 4<sup>th</sup> of January will be issued this week and those for w/c 11<sup>th</sup> January will be issued next week.

Please note: All children currently in school who are entitled to a free school meal have the option of a free hot lunch so will not be eligible for these vouchers.

### Traffic Light Attendance Letter

At Paxton Academy we expect all our children to make at least good progress. Therefore, it is essential that they attend school every day. As you are aware this year our attendance target is 97%. To help us monitor attendance across the whole school we have created our own Traffic Light letter system.

This weekend the Royal Mail will be busy delivering our Traffic Light attendance letters for Autumn Term 2 to all the homes of children at Paxton. 85 envelopes are filled with 100% attendance pencils and 20 are filled with Excellent attendance wristbands. Well done children!

### Magic Breakfast

Next week, thanks to Magic Breakfast, families at Paxton Academy will be issued with a selection of cereals, including corn flakes, rice crispies and porridge oats.

For more information and detailed guidance visit: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

## If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough  
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

**Get a test and stay at home**

**There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other**



#### Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



#### Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



#### Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions