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Headteacher: Adrian Mount

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Dear Parents/Carers

We wrote to you all last week to set out our contingency plans for remote learning in the event that our staffing numbers reduce.

As you are all no doubt aware, the level of Covid-19 cases within the local area is rising rapidly and Thanet is currently in the top two affected areas in Kent. This is leading to an increase in the amount of positive cases, and people identified as contacts of positive cases, which in turn impacts on the amount of people required to self-isolate. This is, obviously, impacting on schools, many of whom have recently had to close bubbles, year groups or even the whole building. This, in turn, impacts on us as a school as more of our staff with younger children are required to be at home to care for them.

As explained in our previous letter, the way we are operating does not allow for us to 'borrow' from other areas of the school due to working in bubbles. We are not willing to compromise on the health and safety of our pupils by taking staff from other areas, which often themselves are quite limited in numbers. For this reason, we have the contingency of part time/remote learning in place.

Over the past few days we have been made aware of more schools locally which have had to send children home due to either exposure to positive cases or lack of staff. This has further impacted on our own staffing numbers therefore, we now have no option but to implement some of our part-time attendance contingencies.

The first part of this plan is to authorise remote learning for any parent/carer willing for their child to receive their education, for a limited amount of time, in this way. Timetables will be provided for each pupil/student educated remotely which will include at least one daily taught session of up to 1 hour (on Microsoft Teams), work sent home either electronically or hard copy for completion by the pupil/student, links to appropriate online learning resources plus 1:1 and small group sessions, where appropriate, taught across the week. Parents are also welcome to contact teachers via email to discuss their child's progress, issues or anything else related to their education or wellbeing.



Those parents in receipt of income related free school meals, will receive a voucher for the period of remote learning.

It is our hope that, if enough parents/carers are in agreement to educate their child through remote means, this will support the full time attendance of Key Worker and vulnerable pupils/students.

If anyone considering the move to remote education does not have access to electronic devices, please let us know as we have a limited stock we are able to loan to parents/carers in order to ensure pupils/students can access the learning.

If you would prefer for your child to be educated remotely for a period of time, please contact their class teacher by the end of this week. The class teacher will then make the necessary arrangements.

We do not want any parent/carer feeling pressured into keeping their children at home - it is our plan that school will remain open to all pupils/students wishing to remain at school - however, I feel I should point out, that should the situation worsen and staff numbers continue to decline, we may be forced to resort to part or full time remote learning for some bubbles, year groups or even the whole school.

We fully understand how some parents/carers are feeling anxious regarding the local rates of COVID-19, however please be assured that all that our COVID-secure measures are in place to prevent the spread, and reduce the risk, of catching the virus.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact us at the school via the generic email account foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk or through a private message on ClassDojo and we will get back to you.

Kind regards



Adrian Mount
Headteacher

