



# QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and keeping healthy. A few people have enquired if the school is opening for children of Critical Workers over half term, if the Government are providing vouchers again for children in receipt of Free School Meals over half term and whether we are having a two week 'circuit break' around half term..... you know as much as me! There are no plans from Government to suggest any of these are happening. Obviously, if anything changes, we will communicate with you straight away. I can confirm that we haven't yet had any positive cases of Covid amongst our staff and children at Queensway. If we do in the future, we will be following instruction from Public Health England.

The children continue to be happy and settled back in school. We have now finished our baselining of their learning through skilled teacher assessment. For the vast majority of children, they maintained the levels they were working at when they finished with us in March and haven't regressed which is credit to all the parents who supported them with the home learning. There are also groups of children in every class who have made progress over this time which is fantastic. Obviously, we are continually refining our provision to support all children and ensure they all achieve their full potential.

Some further changes and updates -

**Late marks in registers** - Starting on Monday we will clamping down on people arriving late, as some families are arriving after 9am, some as late as 9:30am, which is having a significant impact on the children's learning. Therefore, any child in Reception to Year 6 arriving after 9am will receive a late mark in the register and our usual system will be followed, i.e. informing the Local Authority Attendance Team if punctuality is a persistent concern. With Covid cases rising in the country we can't yet stop the staggered drop off and collection times, but please ensure your child is not late.

**Parents evening** - I had originally pencilled in 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October however these are now cancelled due to Covid restrictions. I will write to you after half term with an alternative plan.

**Parents on site** - Starting on Monday, we will only be allowing **one parent per family** on site to drop off and collect. Some families are coming up with both parents which is causing additional congestion and potential for gatherings. At first I thought this was because one parent was collecting one sibling while the other parent was collecting another sibling elsewhere on the site - this has not been the case so this will be stopping from Monday. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Food policy** - The Governors have approved a new food policy which states that children are not allowed to bring food items in to share with their class friends when it is their birthday. This has been an issue raised by lots of parents over the years. Parents have said they want to be able to determine what sweet treats their child is having. On top of this new policy, due to Covid, we should be limiting anyway items going between homes so until further notice, sadly birthday treats of any description will not be allowed to be given out. I do hope you understand the rationale for this - it is about minimising risk.

**Logging onto the class blogs** - Thank you to all the families who have now logged on at home to the new class blogs via Google Classroom. This will be of enormous help should we ever have a lock down situation as you will be up and running. If you are experiencing difficulties, please do speak to the office staff.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman  
Head Teacher