



Friday 27 March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

At the end of a very different week for all of us, I would like to provide some brief updates so you know what has been happening in your school.

We have looked after between 2 and 11 students per day to enable critical workers to continue with their work and to support those who are the most vulnerable. Students in school have been working on their Google classroom activities, but treated to an hour's respite in the middle of the day led by my on duty assistant or deputy headteacher. This activity has ranged from bingo to countdown to street dance and I must say, I have thoroughly enjoyed it myself!

In terms of protecting our staff and supporting the government request to lock down as far as possible, every day we have been reducing staff in school as we understand the demand better. Currently, we have a maximum of 4 teaching staff in at a time (myself and a member of the senior team included); all calls are being diverted to our receptionists at home; site and cleaning staff are working a rota and are doing the minimum hours to ensure we are safe and able to support children. All other staff are working from home. We have locked down most of the school and have a strict cleaning regime in between staff shift changes. Despite this skeleton staff, we are still maintaining a high student to staff ratio for those in school to ensure social distancing can be practised for the benefit of everyone. If you are sending your child into school, it is vital that we have as clear a picture of when they will attend as possible so we can plan our provision.

Many of our children in the full school population are vulnerable, and school closures are a particular concern for them. We have put in place strict safeguarding measures to ensure key staff are checking in with these families and children on a regular basis, albeit remotely. However, if you have any concerns about your child or someone else's, please contact safeguarding@stokesleyschool.org and we will provide advice and support immediately.

In the midst of all of our essential coronavirus communication, I did not think it was appropriate last week to announce that we have a brand new website. If you haven't already, please take a look. We continue to add information to it and would welcome any feedback. The design is matched to the Trust website and the other two secondary schools', although Northallerton's is not yet live. Our address is www.stokesleyschool.org

We've also added a new page under 'Curriculum' called 'Studying at Home'; here, you will find a range of activities and advice specific to our current circumstances.



For parents of children in Y11 and Y13, we still await further guidance from the DfE/Ofqual about how we will calculate and submit grades in lieu of examinations. Mrs

Darbyshire, Deputy Headteacher, is following this very closely and communicating with parents and students in these year groups directly.

It's great to see everyone in Y7-9 is using their Chromebooks to their full potential during the closure. You may have noticed when the students' Chromebook connects to your home WiFi, it instantly disconnects again, this was a feature enabled centrally to keep our students connected whilst at school. Now that we have changed our working practices and our students are actively studying at home, we have removed this feature and the Chromebooks will now remain connected to your home WiFi. If you experience any further issues, please do not hesitate to email itsupport@stokesleyschool.org and the network team will endeavor to answer any technical queries you may have.

If you don't already follow us on Facebook, you might like to do so. We are pushing lots of information out through this platform that will help keep you up to date with school. We love the positive comments that parents have been adding too!

Finally, I hope you received the message yesterday thanking you. We know our parents/carers are bending over backwards to sort childcare and avoid having to send their child into school. We also know many of you are on a steep learning curve supporting your child with all of his/her subjects and learning at home. We have also been touched by the many messages of support you have sent into the school - we really, really appreciate it. At the end of this, our community will be even stronger.

Do not hesitate to get in touch if you need us for anything. The best method of communication at the moment is our email address office@stokesleyschool.org which is monitored throughout the working day.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Mrs H.L. Millett
Headteacher



AMBITIOUS

READY

RESPECTFUL