



Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I write this letter to you with a heavy heart as there is nothing more I would love than to have every child back in school and to see you all once again. I hope you are all well and are coping with the difficulties of the current situation. Thank you for all your efforts with the home learning, we will continue to use Seesaw and to provide extra support where we can. We will also consider other ways to enhance learning at home. Teachers will only use Seesaw to communicate with your children. Here is a link to Seesaw's privacy notice <https://web.seesaw.me/privacy>. Teachers may also use Seesaw to refer children to other websites, including: Oak Academy, BBC, White Rose Maths, etc.

Please do not worry if you are not able to access materials or if your child is reluctant to use them. This period is stressful for all and I do not want home learning to cause arguments and tension in any household. Next week is half term and we will not be providing any home learning or hamper deliveries to allow us to clean school thoroughly and give staff a break. Many of whom have been busy in school or providing learning at home throughout this period. The Edenred vouchers will still be delivered over half term.

I know my letter last week said that we would consider reopening to more children when it was safe to do so following the Prime Minister's announcement. The letter from Leeds Council makes it clear that

"In Leeds, we have asked head teachers to look at the situation in their own school and decide what is safe for your child. We do not expect that all schools in Leeds will be in a position to welcome back all children in the eligible year groups due to each school's unique set of circumstances."

My main priority is the health and safety of all pupils, staff and families. I am currently attempting to make school as Covid secure as I can and am completing a comprehensive risk assessment. As you know our school site is very small, it was originally designed for less than 200 pupils and we now have over 500 on roll. Our classrooms are small, as is the hall and we do not have a lot of outdoor space either. This presents us with lots of challenges that we are trying to overcome in the safest way possible. At the current time, when there are still a lot of unknowns and we await the next update from the Prime Minister next Thursday 28th May, the Chair of Governors and I have made the decision that we will **not expand our current offer on the 1st June**. We will decide that week on the next steps when we have updated guidance and hopefully a fully operational track and tracing system in place. When we do start to open to the year groups the Government stipulated (Nursery, Reception, Year1 and year 6) this will be in small groups and possibly on a rota basis. Although this is far from ideal our priority is the health and safety of all, and we will only open to children if we can fulfil the health and safety requirements.

**An Adventure
in Learning**

Address:
Greenmount Primary School
Lodge Lane
Beeston, Leeds
LS11 6BA

Headteacher
Miss. C. Carr

Contact
0113 276 0771
www.greenmountprimary.co.uk



In an ideal world we would have all of our children in school however this is just not possible at the moment. We will open only to key workers and identified children on Wednesday 3rd of June. Do let us know as soon as possible if you require a key worker place.

Please take care and I really am sorry that I do not bring better news at this time. For those of you celebrating I wish you Eid Mubarak and hope that you can spend time with your families and loved ones in the safest way possible this year. I promise that for our year 6 pupils we will definitely have chance to say goodbye before the term ends in July. I am busy thinking of ways this might work and be possible and will let you know as soon as I can. I have put some links below for some issues you might be dealing with and where there is help available.

Thank you to all your responses to texts and calls and we will be in touch during the first week in June with clear next steps.

With best wishes

Miss C Carr
Headteacher

Possible sources of help...

If the coronavirus has affected your income parents and carers may now be able to make a new claim for universal credit and apply for free school meals by completing the online form on the LCC website: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/council-tax-and-benefits/free-school-meals>

If you do not have access to a computer contact the school for support.

In addition to free school meals, the Council can also assess entitlement for council tax support (help with council tax) on a successful universal credit award.

Looking After Everyone's Mental Health

The pressure on everyone during this time is significant so it is important to remember to make sure that everyone's mental as well as physical health is considered. This year, school was awarded Healthy Schools status, therefore children are used to talking about Mental Health and using the MindMate resources to learn how to improve their mental health. Before the pandemic looking after each other's mental health was a shared between family, school staff, youth workers, group leaders, friends, etc. Now that this network has reduced, please remember that you are not on your own and that the school is still here to support you and your children. Additionally, there are lots of online resources to draw upon. For example:



- <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> This website covers:
 - Supporting your child if they're feeling worried
 - Supporting your family's wellbeing during isolation
 - How can you access mental health support and treatment for your child during the coronavirus pandemic
 - Finding more information and support
- <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#PracticalAdviceForStayingAtHome> This website offers practical advice for staying at home.

Other support agencies you may find useful:

- Mental Health Support
 - KOOTH - <https://www.kooth.com> – online service only.
 - YOUNG MINDS – Text YM to 85258 – 24/7 crisis support.
 - MINDMATE - <https://www.mindmate.org.uk> – great website with lots of links.
 - THE MARKET PLACE - Tel: 0113 246 1659 - <https://www.themarketplaceleeds.org.uk/> - offering support on any issue.
- Health
 - NHS: CHAT HEALTH – text 07520 619 750 – they aim to get back to you within 24hours.
 - LEEDS COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE TRUST - 0113 843 5683 – call for advice.

Some activities and techniques to improve everyone's mental health:

- Make sure YOU take time out to do things you enjoy. Have a nap, go for a walk, read, listen to the radio, watch TV.
- Stay calm and kind. Children react to us and we have to be aware of our own reactions. We need to try to model calm even if we are not feeling calm.
- Allow your child/ren the time and space to manage their emotions. They may be argumentative or even silent; they may have trouble concentrating or be emotional. We need to be available to listen and acknowledge their concerns.
- Limit your child's exposure to the media and news BUT do talk. Provide clear, factual information like the importance of washing hands and social distancing. Don't make promises you can't keep about how long this situation will last.
- Keep a check on treats. Eating too many simple sugars may link to low mood.

Sadly, domestic violence incidents are increasing due to the current lockdown situation. Safer Leeds has launched their DV campaign and messages are being shared across Twitter on [@saferleeds](#) and [@LCCnews](#).



Safer Leeds have updated their website to include useful information for victims of Domestic Violence and people delivering services.

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/domesticviolence/Pages/default.aspx>

Handwashing

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools and at home: <https://e-bug.eu/>

Covid-19 Guidance for Families in Different Languages

I have been aware of some easy-read guidance for families whose home language is not English.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

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ARE YOU FINDING IT HARD TO ACCESS FOOD?

In light of COVID-19 we are putting additional support in place to ensure everyone is able to access the food they need.



Am I eligible for help?

If you are finding it difficult to access food due to financial constraints, self-isolation or accessibility of food provision, then you are eligible for help.

When making the referral you will be asked questions about your personal situation which will enable us to determine what type of support you require.

How can I access help?

If you think you may be eligible to help from these scheme then you can contact a local keyworker or service who will make a referral for you.

This might be somewhere or someone you already have contact with such as a school, college, social worker, housing officer or it could be a provision in your local area such as a Community Hub.

Ideally a referral should be made through one of these support services, however if you are finding it hard to access these please make a self-referral by calling us on **0113 376 0330**. This is a free number.

What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, we will pass your information on to local volunteer coordinators, and you will be provided with a food parcel or a supermarket voucher.

This will be either delivered to a provision hub near your home for you to collect, such as a community hub, school, foodbank or a charity, or delivered to your home directly.

We want everyone to feel supported and will work with you to see what route is best for you.

**For more information and guidance please
contact the Local Welfare Support Team on 0113 376 0330.**

