

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's Snapshot.

RE-OPENING QUESTIONNAIRE - Thank you to the parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 for your responses regarding the conditional re-opening of school to more pupils from June 1st. Your opinions have been very helpful to us in considering how we approach the next steps with the whole school community in mind. There are many families who are unsure about whether they will send their children to school, which may in part be dependent upon the control measures the school puts in place to reduce risk to all. We are in the process of considering how we can implement the government guidelines with regards to safety of pupils and staff. Maintaining our caring and nurturing environment is important to us whilst at the same time providing an environment where parents and staff feel confident about the measures in place.

LINK TO GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS — Here is a link to the guidance for parents about re-opening schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES FROM TEACHERS - These can be found on the Learning from Home area of the school's website. <https://www.lightcliffeprimary.co.uk/>

CHILD CARE FOR KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN - Please continue to complete the Child Care Requirements Form sent out on Wednesdays. Whilst staff are working on a rota basis, this is a single point of contact for establishing numbers and confirming staffing arrangements. We have experienced an increase in the number of children attending child care at school again this week. Key workers will need to provide a letter from their employer to confirm the need to attend work, if they have not already done so.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS — If your work circumstances have changed, and you think you may now be entitled to Free School Meals vouchers, please let the school office know via email (even if your child is in Reception or KS1 and automatically receiving the Universal Infant Free School Meals government initiative).



EMAILS TO TEACHERS - Many families have been sharing home learning with teachers via email. This has been an efficient method of contact between school and families so far and we encourage this practice to continue. For those who have not yet made contact via email, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

PHONE CALLS - Teachers are making calls to 'touch base' with families after many weeks of little contact. Some calls may show as a 'Private Number'. Please answer the call on this occasion — it may be your child's teacher. Many families have expressed their thanks in receiving such calls and to be able to ask questions to teachers. Equally teachers have enjoyed listening to the children retell their favourite experiences of lock down so far.

HOME LEARNING CONCERNS - Many families will be finding the current situation extremely challenging for many different reasons, and some parents have expressed concerns about school's expectation regarding home learning. We would hope that children continue to read, do some maths activities, practise some spelling/phonics and do some writing linked to the research topic over a week. We appreciate that some families will achieve a little and some will achieve a lot depending on their circumstances. We also understand that as time has moved on, children may be more reluctant to engage, or there are too many different topic activities to focus on, if there are a number of children in the same family. Our basic message is to continue to do as much learning as you can, but avoid too many conflicts and do whatever activities you can to maintain a happy household. Your family's wellbeing is important to us. If you are at all concerned or worried, contact your child's teacher/teachers and ask for advice.



WELLBEING - Please continue to look at the Wellbeing folder in the Learning From Home section of our website to find out what services are available to children and parents in the local area. There is a concern that some children may be beginning to find the lockdown difficult, as we are now experiencing time away from school extending beyond the usual summer holiday period. We are also continuing to add resources to the 'Wellbeing resources for children' folder that you may find useful.

You may find the following especially useful for speaking to someone for advice and support about mental and physical wellbeing at this time:

School Nurse Support

If you are worried about Coronavirus, and the impact that returning to school may have on your child's physical health or emotional wellbeing, the Healthy Futures Calderdale school nurses are there to offer advice and support. Call 0303 330 9974 or text 07480 635297 (young people) / 07507 332157 (parents/carers).

Online Safety

Child Net International is a UK based charity which has released six online safety lessons in the form of 15 minute "SMART rules" videos with some challenges to follow. The programme is aimed at children between 6 and 9 years of age in the safe use of the internet and is suitable for parents to use. The site has links to other online safety information, tips and resources. <https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

ChatHealth

This is an NHS-approved secure and confidential text messaging service for school-aged children and their families in Calderdale. ChatHealth is brought to you by Healthy Futures Calderdale and allows you to get in touch with a healthcare professional, at the touch of a button, for advice and support about physical health or emotional wellbeing.

To access the service, text 07480 635297 (young people) or 07507 332157 (parents/carers) to start a conversation. From 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, they have experienced clinicians waiting to help. Messages outside this timeframe will receive an automated response letting you know when you will receive a reply, and who to contact to get immediate help.

Noah's Ark support

Phone support is available for parents/carers Monday - Friday between 10am and 4pm. Parents/carers will be able to request a call back from a member of the Noah's Ark Centre staff team by sending their brief details to the following email address: pri.sch.cal.support@noahsarkcentre.org.uk

The support available will be for parents/carers to offload their worries and concerns; a space to explore their situation a little and their thinking about their relationships with and support of their children and young people. They will listen, support, offer advice where they can and signpost to other services where appropriate. The calls will be kept confidential with the usual exception of significant safeguarding concerns which they will need to refer on to appropriate safeguarding teams and services if these were to arise. The staff responding to requests for support are all experienced and trained in emotionally supporting children, young people and adults and all have experience of working in schools. Some staff have particular training and experience working with families and/or with children with special needs, learning difficulties, or who are on the Autism Spectrum.

Further health and well-being resources for families are available at:

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/coronavirus-covid-19/health-and-well-being-resources-families>

SHARE YOUR CONCERNS - If you have any safeguarding or wellbeing concerns, please use the Red Button on the school website to report the issue. Concerns will be sent directly to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

During this next phase, may we work together to continue to offer our support to our wonderful Lightcliffe community. Take care...stay safe.

Kate Dunkley & Adelle Hustler
Acting Co-Headteachers