



Dear Parents and Carers

Like me, you have probably just seen the announcement from Mr Boris Johnson about a third national lockdown, including schools. Obviously this will be causing families a good deal of worry as they try to work out what that means for them. We are also quickly trying to put together the appropriate response given that we didn't have long enough with the children this week to fully prepare them for online learning. That said, I suppose we have been able to let them know that the Christmas holidays are finished and now it is learning time again!

As in the March lockdown, we will be offering school provision to the children of keyworkers and those who are vulnerable. I fully appreciate that, having already had a significant period of time away from school, more families will consider that they fall into this category although I note that the use of support bubbles and childcare bubbles do seem permitted this time. I ask for your patience as we work out allocations of spaces - we need to balance the organisation of bubbles and staffing this provision with being able to provide proper support to the children learning at home. We must also heed any (as yet unpublished) guidance that we will be given.

If it is entirely necessary for your child(ren) to attend school tomorrow to enable you to go out to frontline work critical to the COVID response and there is no other adult at home and no help available from a support or childcare bubble, please email office@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk.

We will be considering requests from all parents on the key worker list for provision for the rest of this lockdown, but it would help us to have as few children as possible tomorrow to avoid mixing bubbles unnecessarily and to make sure we can offer places equitably. At this point I do not know if Kidzone are able to offer breakfast club to their keyworker children. As soon as I hear back from Dawn I will factor that into our plans, but for tomorrow School Club for keyworker children will begin no earlier than 8:50am. I will contact you tomorrow with more information about applying for a place in school.

Teachers will be busy getting online learning up and running in line with our remote learning offer. Given the timing of this announcement, however, it may be that there is a short delay in getting materials online. Daily registers for Years 2 and above will start this week though, probably by Wednesday. We know from last time it helps to keep children in a routine, although I appreciate that there may have to be some adjustments to account for working patterns, table space, etc. (If a lack of digital devices is going to be a barrier to your child learning at home and you have not already let us know via the online questionnaire, please get in touch.) There is a useful planner to help with routines at <https://www.shireoak.org/home-learning> (This page will be updated soon.) For tomorrow then, unless you hear something more appropriate from your child's teacher this can be the timetable:

9am Register (if not online, see how many classmates your child can write down)

English: Write thank you letters for presents received at Christmas or a recount of the school holidays.

Break: Play outside, if possible. If it snows in the morning, have break first before it melts so that you can enjoy it.

Maths: Practise your Maths Passport and/or times tables facts. Make something that will help you with your maths, e.g. a number line, a 100 square, times tables charts, a negative number line or a fractions/decimals/% number line.

Lunch: Get some fresh air and eat some of your 5 a day.

Afternoon: Free choice learning about the new school topic, or a topic of your choice.

Thank you for all the messages of support we received this weekend and today. They really do help in these ever-changing times!

Jane Astrid Devane

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