Tuesday 22nd December 2020

A**NCRUM ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS for 7th – 15th January 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds yourself, your family and your friends all well in what are continuing to be challenging times for all.

I am writing today to set out our plans for supporting all of our children’s learning in line with new government guidance which was issued on Saturday 19th December.

Our school will open on Thursday 7th of January 2021 for childcare and wellbeing support for children whose parents/carers are key workers and who have no other means of supporting their children, as well as children who are vulnerable. School will also be open on Friday 8th January for these children. School will be open from 9a.m. – 3.15pm.

Children should line up in their normal places and they will be collected by teachers. Children will be dismissed from their normal doors at 3.15pm.

As has been our practice, only parents of P1 and P2 children should enter the playground at drop off and pick-up times and everyone, (unless medically exempt) should wear a face covering. Everyone, including families who are related, but not in an extended family household bubble as set out by the government should stay 2m apart at all times.

Dundee City Council has decided that children of key workers who were granted places at hubs during the last lockdown, will continue to have a key worker place from 7th – 15th January 2021. If you were in this position, your child/children can attend school from 7th -15th January.

Other families, who now need places and where sole/both parents/carers are key workers should contact the school by email or phone to request a place for their child/children by Wednesday 23rd December at 12 noon, when school will close for the Christmas break. Depending on the requests for key worker places, it may be that you are not contacted until later that day and we would ask for your patience and understanding of this.

Families with vulnerable children will be contacted before Wednesday at 12noon to offer a place in school from Thursday 7th – Friday 15th January 2021.

**School Lunches**

At this point in time, we have been advised that all children who are entitled to Free School Meals will be given these in school if they are attending. Families with children who are Home Learning will receive payments as they did previously through bank accounts. (This is the current advice and if this changes, we will let you know)

Children attending school who are not entitled to free school meals can either pay for a meal or bring a packed lunch. The new school meal menu will be shared on Twitter and in SEESAW and TEAMS.

**Extended Holiday/Home Learning**

All children who are not children of key workers/vulnerable, will have two extra days holiday on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January. All staff will be back in school on Thursday 7th January either supporting key worker/vulnerable children or planning work which children will do at home from 11th-15th January.

As you know, we have been preparing for the eventuality of either blended or home learning. Our children have all been working with their teachers to learn how to use SEESAW if they are in P1-5 or TEAMS if they are in P6 and P7.

**P1-5 SEESAW**

All parents/carers have been issued with instructions on how to download and log into SEESAW and almost all of you have now done this and are regular participants in your child’s learning by giving feedback, encouragement and praise – thank you all for this.

If you have not yet joined SEESAW, we would urgently request that you do this, in order to best support your child’s learning, especially during this second lockdown. SEESAW as you know from previous correspondence will also be used to support Homework when we get back to normal later in January and so it will be marvellous to have you support your child/children with this also.

All children who were in school last week, were issued with their log in details in a large brown envelope for logging into SEESAW at home. If you do not have this yet, it will be posted to you before the end of this term.

Daily, teachers will provide activities for children to work through. Each day there will be Literacy, Numeracy, Interdisciplinary Learning and Health and Wellbeing activities for children to complete on SEESAW. Class teachers will be active on SEESAW to support children and to give feedback. This is a new experience for us all. We hope that all children will be able to complete all activities, however, if this is not possible for your child at any time due to pressures which may occur, we will be understanding of this. We anticipate that children from P1-4 may need

parental support with SEESAW activities from time to time, but we are hopeful that our P5s should be able to work through their activities, mainly independently.

**P6 and P7 TEAMS**

Children in P6 and P7 have been learning in class how to use TEAMS and we anticipate that almost all of them will be able to work through activities in TEAMS independently like they do in school. Again, teachers will set activities in Literacy, Numeracy, Interdisciplinary Learning and Health and Wellbeing daily for children to work through. Teachers will give support and feedback.

Children can also communicate with their peers using TEAMS. Peer chat should be polite and respectful at all times.

Adults cannot log into TEAMS, as you already know, but your children can share their work with you should they want you to see it.

Homework, when we return to normal, later in January will be through TEAMS for P6 and P7 children.

**Home Learning Kits**

Children who were in school yesterday and those who are in today and tomorrow, will take home their Home Learning Kits. These are individual wallets which can be used at home to support Home Learning and Homework when this starts. In the P1-P5 wallets, there are also instructions for supporting your child/children with SEESAW.

If your child does not attend school this week, and they will be learning from home from 11th -15th January, their kits can be collected from the school between 10am and 1pm on both Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January. Please wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) ring the bell at the main entrance and staff will bring the kits out to you. Please be mindful of others safety at this time, stay 2m apart from all adults. A table will be placed outside upon which staff will place the kits for you to pick up. Staff will wear gloves and face coverings and hand sanitiser and wipes will be available for you to use to wipe down the kits and sanitise hands should you wish to. The wallets are plastic and robust enough to be wiped down.

**Staff Support for all Home Learning**

Staff will be entitled to their normal breaks - these will be taken at the usual times. Teachers will also be entitled to their RCT time. Teachers will respond to children and give feedback as soon as they can. Please support our staff by being understanding and patient. Miss Riggs and I will also be active on SEESAW and TEAMS and will provide support as often as possible.

Should you have queries or concerns at any time, please email the school at the address in the header or call on the school number above and we will get back to you as quickly as we can.

**Head Teacher Message**

We really hope that all of you, our Ancrum families, have the best Christmas possible under the current restrictions. We hope that you all stay healthy and safe.

We will be thinking about you all and I will be tweeting and adding notifications to SEESAW and TEAMS which detail support available during the Christmas break, such as how to access food, mental health support etc. I will also try to add, from time to time, fun activities which our children can do at home.

Our children have been amazing again this term. We are proud of them all and the progress they have made with their learning as well as their support of each other and our staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for every support shown to us from August. By respecting government guidance, we have kept our community as safe as possible. Working together we have achieved this.

I would also like to publicly thank every member of our dedicated team here at Ancrum and the partners we have worked with this term to support our children and you their families. We have had a happy school community since August and this as you all know, plays a huge part in children being able to reach their full potential.

We will continue to work hard every day to support the learning and overall wellbeing of children on our return and look forward to working in partnership with you all in doing this. Take care everyone, look after yourself and each other.

Kindest regards,

Sharon McQuillan – Head Teacher