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15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID Update

We have had 3 positive cases of Covid reported to us this week, requiring us to send some staff and students home to self-isolate. A school bus driver also tested positive, so students on his bus have also had to stay at home to self-isolate. Today we had to send another student home who was clearly unwell. Please do not send your child to school if they display any potential COVID symptoms.

On-site Provision

We are doing our best to increase on-site provision from the 19th January. You will have been contacted if we are able to offer a place to your child. My apologies if you were hoping for a place but have not yet been offered one. We are continuing to restrict the number of students on site in order to ensure that school is a safe environment for students and staff. We will review our provision again at the end of the month, or if there is a significant change in the lockdown measures. If you prefer your child to remain at home that is understandable given the current national lockdown. I continue to be able to authorise absence during the lockdown period.

Home Learning

We are aware of how difficult it is for many of you to get your son/daughter to engage in Zoom sessions. Please let the form tutor know if there are any specific resources you think you may need and we will do our best to get these to you. Our thanks to those of you who have sent in positive comments about the home learning that is being provided - the staff have really appreciated your support.

Lateral Flow Testing

We have started the lateral flow testing of staff in school and this is helping them to feel more confident about being on site. As mentioned previously, we are not intending to test students unless they fully understand the process and are able to take the test swab themselves.

Free School Meals

At the end of this week or early next, we will be issuing free school meal vouchers to parents of students who are unable to attend school to cover the period 4th to 15th January. Parents/Carers will receive an email from a company called "Wonde" with the link to the vouchers. Please remember to check in your junk mail. If you have not received the voucher by Wednesday 20th or you are unable to activate the link, please email the school (info@oaklodeschool.org) and we will send vouchers to you by post.

Following Government clarification, we will be issuing vouchers to cover free school meals from the 18th January from a company called Edenred. We apologise to our Free School Meal families for the delay in issuing vouchers but we have been awaiting DFE confirmation of arrangements.

Thank you all for your continued understanding and support at this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Lynda Walker

Headteacher