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Stradbroke Primary School

Learning for Life!



6th November 2020

Welcome Back

Welcome back to school again for the second half of the autumn term. I hope that you all had a good half-term break and that despite restrictions you were able to enjoy your week away from school.

Covid-19 Updates

As we now head into a second national lockdown, there are understandably increasing anxieties amongst the school community, as schools are this time being asked to **remain open for all children**. Please rest assured, we take our Covid-secure precautions very seriously and since the pandemic started we have reviewed the effectiveness of our mitigation on a weekly basis, taking advice from local health experts and digesting all of the Department for Education guidelines, which we receive updates on regularly. Naturally, there will be comparisons made with what other schools in the city are doing, however, please bear in mind that all schools are very different in terms of their layout and the size of the entrances and grounds at their disposal. We are fortunate at Stradbroke to have lots of open space where social distancing is very achievable if everybody using the site is considerate of each other.

Therefore, having reviewed our measures further, as a school, we are now asking that **any parent, guardian, or visitor, entering the school foyer please wear a face covering**. Please also make sure that you are adhering to the 'one at a time' policy in the foyer and wait patiently outside until the reception area is clear. Public health advice states it is not a necessity in primary schools for staff to wear face coverings, however, some members of staff may also be taking the decision to wear face coverings themselves at certain points in the school day. We also respect the wishes of any parents who wish to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting outdoors. **The main consideration is to observe social distancing**, though, from each other and staff, bearing in mind that some people have underlying health issues. Only one adult should be collecting and dropping off at any time, limiting the number of people entering the school grounds. Additionally, if you have older children, who do not attend our school, please arrange for them to meet you away from our site or ask them to not cut through our school, as they are adding unnecessarily to the number of people using the grounds. It is now more important than ever that we follow the guidelines as best we can in order to live with these restrictions for as short a time as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Free School Meals Vouchers

On Thursday 29th October, 22,700 free school meal voucher letters were posted to families across the city as part of the council's commitment to fund free school meals in holiday times during the pandemic. Each letter contained a unique 16 digit code that can be used to access a voucher for one of several supermarkets. The codes were sourced from Edenred, who managed the vouchers issued over the summer on behalf of the DFE. The council became aware on Friday during the holiday that the website address given to us by Edenred caused problems for some parents. They gave us a new website address which is now easier to navigate. The new website address is: <https://www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/>

Parents should enter their unique code from their letter at this website to redeem your vouchers if you haven't been able to already. The council's Customer Services team can be reached on the telephone helpline: 0114 273 4567 if you are still experiencing problems. They have also committed to providing vouchers again during the Christmas holiday, should the government decide not to do this.

Best Wishes,

Mr John Sitch
Headteacher