



Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Dear parents and carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to say that you are all doing an amazing job of supporting your children with their remote learning - we know that it isn't easy, and there are many challenges to overcome on a daily basis. We really feel for you having to juggle the demands of working from home as well as supporting your child/ren with their remote learning, and hopefully the systems we have set up are helping to make this more manageable. From what we are seeing, everyone is doing their best and drawing on support from the school whenever needed. For those of you whose children are currently in school, I would like to say thank you for supporting us with our health and safety measures, and for being so understanding.

You may have seen or heard about the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday; see the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-coronavirus-27-january-2021>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RKLfuae8s8> (the speech starts at 9:08)

Here is a summary of the Prime Minister's main points about the reopening of schools:

- "It will not be possible to re-open schools immediately after the February half term."
- "I know how frustrating that will be for pupils and teachers who want nothing more than to get back in the classroom and for parents and carers who have spent so many months juggling their day jobs not only with homeschooling but with meeting the myriad other demands of their children from breakfast until bedtime. And I know too the worries we all share about the mental health of our young people during this prolonged period of being stuck at home."
- "If we achieve our target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February – and every passing day sees more progress towards that goal – then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus by about three weeks later, that is by 8 March."
- "We hope it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools **from Monday 8 March**, with other economic and social restrictions being removed thereafter as and when the data permits – then or thereafter."

In his speech, Boris Johnson also stated about further support for children and families:

- "As we are extending the period of remote learning beyond the middle of February, I can confirm that the government will prolong arrangements for **providing free school meals** for those eligible children not in school – including **food parcels and the national voucher scheme** – until they have returned to the classroom. We can also commit now that, as we did this financial year, we will provide a programme of catch up over the next financial year."

Therefore, food vouchers will continue to be provided to those children who are eligible.

Over the period of school closures, we have been constantly refining and adapting our remote education provision to best meet the needs of the children, using feedback and conversations from parents, our own experiences, and training opportunities provided by the Department for Education and Isle of Wight & Hampshire local authorities. We will be sending out a **parent survey on Friday 29th January** to gather more feedback on our remote education provision. We would really appreciate as many responses as possible so we can get a broader picture of what is working well, what further improvements/amendments can be made and what further support is needed.

If you have any questions or need any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Melissa Jones, Debbie Pelosi or me, and we will do our best to help. We are here for you.

With very best wishes,

Rebecca Lennon

Headteacher
Brighstone CE Aided Primary School