

Friday 15TH January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience and understanding after the government guidance for schools changed on Thursday afternoon and then again on Friday. The criteria set for allocating places in school changed during the week this led to more children being allocated places.

Due to the adverse weather conditions yesterday the school and the MAT had to take a late decision to close school for the safety of staff and pupils. Thank you for your co-operation, staff worked very hard yesterday in providing remote learning at short notice for everyone. We were delighted to see your photographs and experiences in the snow.

Registration

The morning **register** is the most important part of the school day. It is a statutory requirement that we have “live” contact with the children on a daily basis. Registers will be completed using the Teams platform. At this time we will be checking that the children have access to the day’s learning and carrying out our statutory safeguarding and wellbeing checks. If your child does not attend registration there will be a follow up phone call. We will need to speak to the child. If we have not had sight of a child during the week we will do a home visit to fulfil our duty of care responsibilities.

Remote Learning

Thank you for your positive feedback about the speed and quality of remote learning we have provided, as an immediate response to the national lock down. Please contact us via gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk if you have any difficulties with logins or accessing work.

We are now required, by law, to provide remote learning and monitor work produced by providing feedback (as we would do in school). Please make sure that you upload work onto seesaw following learning input. **This should be limited to 1 upload per lesson.** We will make contact if work is not uploaded as we are required to ensure that remote learning is taking place. Lessons are recorded so that you can access them at your convenience.

Please see the remote learning agreement which was sent in November. This is reminder of our expectations in particular behaviour and safeguarding.

The new agreement is on seesaw for parents to read and agree.

Devices

We have been issued with 14 laptops from the DfE. The DfE is providing laptops and tablets to schools to help children and families in need to access remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19). Devices have been made available for disadvantaged children in certain year groups...”

Initially these devices are being allocated according to the criteria set by the DfE. Years 3 - 6 are eligible first, but we have started to loan laptops to children in younger years groups who have no access to remote learning.

A laptop agreement must be signed to acknowledge the responsibilities associated with the loan.

Notebooks donated by Newly Weds last year and laptops donated by John Cotton this week are being reset and checked before they can be issued. We would like to thank the companies for them.

Further guidance can be found at:

[Get help with technology during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

We have a number of data sim cards for those families using tablets. Please email enquiries with any queries.

Website

We will be launching our new website in the next few weeks. Consequently, you may experience some difficulty accessing information. Any important announcements will be sent by email. Our Twitter feed and Facebook page will be regularly updated with any important updates.

Reporting Covid Cases

Please make sure you let us know immediately if your child has tested positive as we need to act quickly to inform Public Health England as well as inform parents and staff of any necessary closures and isolation requirements. Please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk.

Positive Covid Tests and Self Isolation

The government recommend that the NHS COVID 19 App is downloaded. If you test positive or are identified as a contact of someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, you will receive an email/text alert from the NHS Test and Trace Service advising that you must now self-isolate as soon as possible and stay at home. The message will advise the date of the isolation period and it is a legal duty to comply with this.

Schools will be asking staff and parents to provide evidence of the need to self-isolate so that an accurate record can be kept in school.


If you have any issues providing this information, please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk

Picture News

Please find attached this week's Picture News poster. Picture News is a resource used in school to promote discussion around current issues. Each week there is a homework activity with an image and a question. We would encourage you to talk about this at home with the children. There are no right or wrong answers, it is a forum for discussion.



Mrs C Harris
Head of School



Mrs P Gill
Deputy Head of School

Upcoming Diary Dates

Dates	Event	Who is it for?
Friday 12 th February	Break up for half term	All children
Monday 22 February	INSET	
Tuesday 23 February	School returns	





Picture News

at Home

11th January 2021

What's going on this week?



11th-17th January

How do soldiers help us in times of need?

Armies in the UK and all over the world have played a key part in supporting governments and helping in many ways throughout the pandemic and it's likely that their role will continue in 2021. In early autumn, the military helped to organise mass testing in Liverpool. In December, 1,100 military personnel were sent to help thousands of lorry drivers spending Christmas Day stranded at Dover. Most recently, the Army have been helping secondary schools and colleges in England to set up mass coronavirus testing for their pupils.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🌱 What do you know about the role of the Army? Do you know anyone who is a soldier or works for the Army? If so, what is their role?
- 🌱 Did you know that the Army did so many different things?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others on our discussion board: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss