

Thursday 21st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support with remote learning. We have had some very positive feedback about the live lessons and recordings. We are now monitoring the quality and quantity of work uploaded on seesaw. Please could you make sure your child's work is uploaded on seesaw daily with **one post per lesson**. We have removed the requirement to post by 2pm as we recognise this is difficult to manage when people are working from home and trying to support with home learning.

We would kindly ask that if you need to contact teachers during this time you use gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk. In order to manage workload and for the wellbeing of the staff we cannot guarantee that work will be reviewed over the weekend.

Numbers in School:

Government Guidance states:

National lockdown: stay at home

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading fast.

Do not leave your home unless necessary.

1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms, so you could be spreading it without knowing it.

We have contacted parents this week about working patterns and hours. We would ask that if you work from home or have part time hours, please keep children at home so that numbers in school allow safe working conditions in each classroom.

Unfortunately, we will now need to ask for **evidence of critical worker roles and contracted hours**, as our numbers in school continue to be high compared with similar sized schools in the area. Please could you send this to: gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk

The evidence will be considered and reviewed. You may be asked to keep your child at home.

Free School Meals

Applications for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding are available from the school office and also on our website. If your joint family income is £16,190 or under and you receive any of the following benefits: Income Support, Income based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit without **Working Tax Credit** and an annual household income of less than £16,190, Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit), Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit, Universal Credit, provided you have an annual earned income of no more than £7,400, your

child may be entitled to free school milk and school meals. Also some clubs are free of charge for FSM children.

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

Intervention Groups and Drop In Sessions

Additional sessions will be provided from next week to support the teaching of phonics and maths in Key Stage 2. This will be an invitation only session with a daily commitment to attend.

Drop in sessions allow children to discuss their learning with their teacher. Any problems with the tasks set can be addressed and further teaching provided if necessary.

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 are now being distributed. We thank them for these donations.

Further guidance can be found at:

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

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

<u>Upcoming Diary Dates</u>		
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