

FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter No 9

22 January 2021

Dear Parents

Information for all Parents – Lockdown, School Places and Remote Learning

I have no doubt that many of you will be finding this national lockdown period even more challenging than the last. I hope that this newsletter finds you well in these increasingly challenging times. We have all been so grateful for the encouraging messages parents have sent, acknowledging staff efforts to support the children at home and at school. Thank you!

We want to reassure you that we know you may not be in a position to support your child to do everything we set for remote learning. All we can ask is that you do your best. We are worried some parents are putting themselves under huge pressure. Please don't worry! We are asking you to do what is manageable for your circumstances. This will vary from family to family, from day to day.

We are three weeks into this lockdown. It's impossible to predict what the coming weeks hold and none of us know how long this lockdown will continue but it is time to pause, to reflect and carefully consider the reality of the situation we are dealing with on site and in our efforts to support remote learning.

In the spirit of working together for the greater good of the whole community, we must now ask parents to review their needs for school places because we have reached a tipping point.

Attached to this newsletter is an important letter from Castleman Academy Trust CEO, Rhonda Moore. It's essential all parents read this and, in particular, the parents who have accepted or recently requested a critical worker place at school but are working at home or another adult is at home.

Finally, can I please ask everyone to be aware of the impact of their social media presence; their comments and responses to those of others.

If you have questions or genuine concerns, please consider whether anyone in a WhatsApp group can actually help you. If it needs discussion with the school, that is where your comments or questions should go. We do listen. Where there are issues, we will address them. Where support is needed, we will be there. Where there are challenges, we will face them together.

Critical Worker Places

If, after reading the letter from our CEO, you decide you no longer require a critical worker place for your child, please advise the school office, by email.

We continue to be here for our families who need us most.



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

New Governors

The Castleman Academy Trust Board has overall responsibility for all the academies in the Trust. They delegate certain functions to the School Standards Boards of each school.

We have recently welcomed two new Governors to our school. Mrs Claire Jones and Dr Jonathan Miller have joined our School Standards Board, which replaced the Governing Body since our conversion to Academy status in January.

Staff News

We are pleased to advise that **Mrs Errington** has joined the Senior Leadership Team in her new role as Acting Assistant Headteacher until August 2021.

Our warmest congratulations also go to **Mrs Hurst** and **Mrs Bremner** who have advised that they are both expecting a baby later this year!

Further information will be made available to parents regarding staffing arrangements when Mrs Hurst and Mrs Bremner commence their maternity leave.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We are continuing to issue supermarket vouchers to parents of children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals/Pupil Premium and who are not currently attending school.

The latest set of vouchers cover the period 18th - 29th January and have been sent out by e-mail using a company called "Edenred".

Please keep a close eye on your e-mails and junk folder to make sure you have received your voucher. These must be redeemed by 21st February 2021.

A further two weeks' worth of vouchers will be sent out during the week of 1st February.

Donation of IT Equipment to School

We are very grateful to those parents who have donated laptops and other IT equipment to the school recently. This equipment has been wiped clear and cleaned and offered to those children who don't have the use of such equipment and which will now enhance their learning at home.

Christmas Performance - Lights Camel Action!



Parents are advised that the Christmas performance of Lights Camel Action will be removed from the school website at 10pm on Sunday evening.

If you haven't yet watched it, please take a look as it will not be available after this time.



Uploading your Child's Work to Tapestry

After speaking to a few parents this week Mrs Hurst has created a document to show parents how to upload their children's work to Tapestry using an iOS device (iPhone or tablet). Using a device with a built in camera is much easier because you can upload the images straight away.

Please see the information below:

Tapestry Tutorial

How to add an observation (your children's work) using an iOS device

Download the Tapestry app from the App Store. Use the login information you use on the computer to access your child's account. When you upload their work only the Year 2 teachers can see it. A member of staff is always looking at Tapestry and will like or comment on the post once it has been uploaded.

The screenshot shows the Tapestry app interface. At the top, it says 'You Ferndown First School'. Below that is a search bar. There are three posts visible, each with a date, time, and number of children. The first post is titled '2EH drop in video call for...' and has a 'HELLO!' image. The second is 'Today's Remote Learning...' with a 'FRIDAY' image. The third is another '2EH drop in video call for...' with a 'HELLO!' image. A callout box labeled '1' points to the '+' icon in the top right corner, with the text 'Click + to add your children's work'. A callout box labeled '2' points to the 'Add a Title' field, with the text 'In the title write your child's name and the day/week the work is from.'. A callout box labeled '3' points to the 'Pictures and Videos' section, with the text 'Take a photo directly on your device or upload photos from your photo library,'. A callout box labeled '4' points to the 'Pick children' button, with the text 'Pick your child's name.'. A callout box labeled '5' points to the 'Upload' button, with the text 'Click 'upload' to add it to Tapestry.'.

If anyone is still unsure about how to do this then please contact your child's teacher through Tapestry.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Di-Pede

Headteacher