



BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Acting Headteacher: Ms Linda McQuone BSc(Hons), MA(Ed), PGCE, NPQH, MCCT

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24 September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As you know, we are regularly reviewing our risk management plans to keep students and staff safe. I'd therefore like to share the following information with you.

Food and nutrition lessons

We have taken the decision to avoid practical food lessons this term. Instead, students will study a Textiles unit of work. We'll keep the situation under review and will restart practical cooking as soon as we are confident that we can do so safely.

End of the school day

Some parents and carers have expressed concerns about students crowding together as they are dismissed at the end of the school day. As from next week, classes will be escorted to the school gate as "bubbles" and dismissed in an orderly way by staff. We thank parents in advance for their support and understanding if it takes very slightly longer to dismiss students this way for a couple of days while the procedure "beds in", but this worked very well with Year 6 bubbles in the summer so we're confident it will be successful.

Buses

Students who travel on buses (school transport or public buses) are required to follow the safety regulations put in place. In particular, students aged 11 or over are required to wear a face covering on buses. Unfortunately, school cannot provide these for students, so it is parents' responsibility to ensure that children have a suitable face covering in order to travel. The WHO have produced a short video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk explaining how to put on and take off masks safely.

NHS advice

The NHS recently issued advice for parents and carers, which we shared through school email and also on our Facebook page.

Poor weather

Current advice is that the virus is less likely to spread out of doors, so we are encouraging children to be outside at breaks and lunchtimes as much as possible. Please therefore ensure that your son or daughter has a suitable coat, particularly as we are approaching the colder months. We are also opening windows in classrooms and corridors to increase ventilation so temperatures in classrooms may be lower than we'd ideally like. We do have a uniform jumper which is available from the school shop if your child is particularly sensitive to the cold!





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Work for children who are absent from school

If your child is absent from school because they are self-isolating, work will be provided for them using Show My Homework. Work for students working at home appears as a "flexible task" and is shown in a pink box. This should enable students who are at home to keep up with the curriculum we are covering in school. This system will also be used if we have to send children home due to local or national restrictions.

Thank you again for your continued support for the school through these challenging times.

With very best wishes,

Linda McQuone

Acting Headteacher

