



Wibsey Primary School
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Wibsey
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Tel: 01274 678016/775545
Headteacher: Mr N M Cooper

Update from Mr Cooper - Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

To start on a really positive note I have to say that whether children are learning at home or in school it has been lovely to see systems starting to settle down, and for me to be able to see some of the work produced in and out of the building. There is some exciting stuff going on.

For those of you with children home learning, I take my hat off and say thank you. I am under no illusion about the pressures you face and I think the Government should be giving you lots of credit for the sacrifices you are making at this time.

Sadly, from next week anyone attending school in **Year 3 upwards** who is not entitled to free school meals will have to pay for lunch. We had been given the funding for all this week – but that has not been renewed. All other pupils (**YR/1/2 and FSM**) are eligible for a free meal every day.

Menu w/c Monday 11th January

Usual daily choices – Jacket Potatoes, Paninis and Sandwiches, home-made confectionary and fruit.

Hot Options

Monday - Cheese and Bean Pasta

Tuesday – Sausage Dinner

Wednesday – Pasta Bolognaise

Thursday – Pizza

Friday – Fish and Wedges

I know that communication from teachers is growing with the use of Google classroom. I have seen some of the videos. You won't necessarily get a voice call but it is already much more personalised than the last lockdown, and teachers are providing online teaching as well as providing the same work to children in school. The Government set 3 hours of work to do a day for KS1 and 4 hours for KS2 – but you will already see we are offering more than that.

Managing expectations - staff will not be responding to App messages “**out of hours**” and, as I’m expecting staff to work with children in school and online, responses won’t be immediate, unlimited or ongoing. We have to have fair access across families and I will be managing the pressures on my staff.

I do feel there has been some Government misinformation about laptops and devices. As a school of nearly 700 children we have so far been allocated 57! They are prioritising secondary schools at the moment and we aren’t seeing much. If and when we are able (we have spent some of school’s own money on a further 20) we will distribute according to need. We are helping with some internet access as well – but it will never be enough.

Good news - The best thing about watching the news at the moment is seeing the roll out of the vaccines that have been developed. It might take some time but at least it feels a huge step forwards have been made. Let’s keep that goal in sight.

Children - Mildred and George are not enjoying lockdown as much in winter, not being able to be outside as much. I will try and find a happy picture of them – with no mud. They are still looking forwards to getting into school when we are all back safely together – and when we can have assemblies again.

Stay safe and be nice – snow? What snow?

Nigel M. Cooper

Headteacher – Team Wibsey