Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

**Information relating to COVID-19 and school during the Easter break period**

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you well and you are all able to continue to remain safely at home, during this period of National difficulty. I would, again, like to thank you all for your sensible approach to keeping yourselves and your children safely at home, which has meant that the community can protect itself against this terrible virus. Thank you, also, for your kind words over the last few weeks; it is wonderful to feel appreciated.

Next week, the week beginning the 6th of April, and the following week, sees the start of what would normally be the two week long Easter break from school. For this reason, the school will be closed to all but those key worker children, who have already had the necessary support pre-arranged. There may be some days when the school building is fully closed, meaning staff are also able to follow the lockdown instructions to keep themselves and their families safe. Should you need to contact the school during school hours on these days, please use the **emergency number** **07526 041406 or contact us via email at** [**admin@newvillage.doncaster.sch.uk**](mailto:admin@newvillage.doncaster.sch.uk)**.**

Should your child have an EHCP or social worker supporting them, then the school will support you directly through the Easter break. We will contact you to outline what support is available, should you choose to take it. Our main aim is that you are all safely at home, have sufficient supplies in your home and have access to learning should you require it.

If you are a family that has been collecting free school meal packed-lunches, or qualify for free school meals, then we are in the process of organising food vouchers. This will mean that the school will provide you with a weekly voucher - worth £15 per qualifying child - that you are then able to use online for groceries. The voucher is in place of the school providing a free school meal and *should be used to help feed your child/ren* during this difficult time. We anticipate that the voucher system will be in place ready for after the Easter break and will continue throughout the usual school term times.

If you do not qualify for free school meals but feel you are vulnerable or are finding it difficult to feed your children, please contact me and I will see how I am able to help. The school wants to support as many families as possible during these unprecedented times and make sure you are all as well and safe as you are able to be. We are only ever a phone call away!

And finally… we are planning on providing more learning guidance after the Easter break so that you have learning resources and suggestions to use should you want to. There is no expectation that children do school-like learning each day whilst they are at home: we would rather you had a happy time with your children and used the learning suggestions, if they get bored. We will be in touch in a few weeks with more information about this.

In the meantime, stay at home, stay safe and look after yourselves. We miss you all!

Mrs K McKechnie

Headteacher

Bentley New Village School