

Pilgrim Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE, N.P.Q.H)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for patience and understanding yesterday and today, whilst we have been adjusting to the new situation in which we find ourselves. Staff have worked hard since the Government announcement on Monday evening to make the necessary changes and we have needed to prioritise our communications both within school and to yourselves to ensure that we could open today for pupils who are in EduCare and to get plans for home learning established. You should have already received separate communications about these in the last 24 hours.

Who can attend school?

Today, Wednesday 6th January, we opened EduCare once again. EduCare is open for children who have at least one parent who is a critical worker, based on the list published by Government today:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

In addition, children who have a social worker or an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) can also attend school.

School times will be 9.00 am to 3.15 pm and the children in EduCare will continue to learn in their same year group bubbles and following the same learning materials, at the same pace, as the rest of the children who are learning at home. This will allow for the whole year group to access the same learning at the same time and will help those children who will be accessing EduCare only on some days and then continuing with learning at home on other days.

Breakfast Club and Pirates After School Club are still available for critical worker families – please book and pay in the usual way.

Should you believe that your child meets the criteria for a place in EduCare please contact the school office for more information.

Learning at Home

You will have been sent lots of information about Remote Learning (learning at home) today. Please read this all carefully (I know it is a lot!) as there is information about picking up home learning packs in there – your child will need these for Monday next week. Please also look out for other activities on Google Classroom as we hope soon to be providing Google Meets for the children to stay connected and some live events, celebrations, etc. We really want to keep the children at home and at school connected throughout this period of school closure.



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School Meals and Free School Meal entitlement

We have now had confirmation that our Catering service will be able to provide school meals in school during EduCare in the usual way:

- Children entitled to Free School Meals (in any year group) or Universal Free School Meals (all children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2) **will have a lunch provided from the school kitchen**
- Children who would like to **buy a meal** from the kitchen can do so (usual payment using Parent Pay applies)

Please note that for the rest of this week only, the options are limited to sandwiches/wraps or jacket potatoes – we anticipate that we will start the usual full hot menu from Monday next week.

Pupils entitled to a Free School Meal (FSM) but who are not in school

We are awaiting a details of a possible FSM voucher scheme (as happened in the last national lockdown) but we have not had confirmation of this to date. In the meantime, we are working with our caterers to provide some food parcels to families who have children learning at home now and who are entitled to FSM. Again, we anticipate that this will be able to get off the ground by Monday – we will be in touch in the next few days with the families that this applies to.

On behalf of the staff team, I would like to wish you a happy new year. It is not quite the return to school we anticipated in the first week of January but I am sure we all understand there is good need for such immediate action. We hope you stay safe and well in the coming weeks and we look forward, of course, when we can all be back together in school again.

Please get in touch with us at school if you have any questions or you need any help at any time – we are still here for all of our school community. I will continue to stay in touch over the coming days and weeks so please keep an eye on emails and school social media.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs L Meek



Headteacher

