

23 March 2021

Dear Families

Re: End of Term Updates

It's great to have all the students back, they really do make the school come alive. They have been talking about what they've missed the most about school, unsurprisingly this has been mainly talking and playing with their friends, and being outside! We are currently trying to balance this need with the need to reconnect to learning in class.

I hope you will all join me in thanking our staff for everything they've done during the lockdown. As parents you know how hard it is keeping your children at home, for our staff they have done this with their families whilst also teaching in school (we had over 100 students in each day), making phone calls and home visits to students and preparing remote learning! The staff have been wonderful in supporting families and the school!

The media calls for Easter and Summer school fail to take into account how hard all teachers have been working and the need for them to spend quality time with their families during the holidays. We have plans in place to ensure students reach their goals by the end of Primary and to achieve this we simply need **all students to attend school every day on time**. Which we hope you will help us with.

Term Dates

You will be aware that we will be **closing on Friday 26th March, at 1pm**. We **re-open on Monday 12th April**.

On Friday 26th we will be holding a pre-Ramadan celebration in school, which has been requested by our School Councillors. Students are asked to come in uniform and we will be providing party food, due to the transmission of coronavirus we will not be able to accept food donations.

Positive Cases during Holiday

The Government has requested that if your child develops symptoms and then tests positive that you inform the school. This is only required in the first week. We will then inform any parents/staff of the need to self-isolate. There are two ways that you can do this:

- Email info@dixonsmn.com
- Phone 07949 515233

Both of these will be checked until Thursday 1st April.

Holiday Support

We have a limited number of places at our Easter Club, which is running in the first week. Students that most need the club have already received their invitation. If you are interested in this, but haven't had an invitation you can register your interest with the Office and you will be placed on a waiting list. Although I cannot guarantee places at this time.

Families on Free School Meals can access support through Bradford Central Foodbank; Jubilee Centre, Jermyn Street between 11am and 2pm. The food bank will be open on 26th, 30th, 31st March or 1st, 6th, 7th, 9th April. They are providing halal or non-halal parcels, a bag of fruit and prepared meals. There will be **no vouchers this holiday**.

Ramadan

We expect the beginning of Ramadan will coincide with the start of school next term. We appreciate the importance of keeping the fast but would urge parents to ensure that children continue attending everyday on time.

We will be holding Ramadan clubs for those fasting in Years 5 and Years 6, and a separate letter will be sent out for parental permission for this. We ask that students in lower year groups do not fast during the school day but are encouraged to try fasting on a weekend instead.



Packed Lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch to school we urge you to check the contents to ensure it is healthy. There needs to be some carbohydrates, protein, calcium and vegetables/fruit each day. Check out the following website for ideas:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes#lunchbox-recipes>.

Sweets, chocolate, crisps are only allowed on Thursdays and will be removed if they are in lunch boxes on other days. Where a **child's packed lunch is not healthy** eg. Cold burger, pizza etc then **they will be given a school dinner and you will be charged**.

Free School Meals

You can apply for free school meals if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 then your child automatically gets universal free meals. You can still claim free school meals and the benefits of doing this are:

- When vouchers are provided in the holidays you will also get them
- Vouchers for free school uniforms
- Supporting the school in accessing additional funding – this is used to reduce the cost of trips and provides additional funding to ensure children get the support they need for learning.

The Office Staff are happy to help you in applying for free school meals or you can apply yourself through Bradford Councils website: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

Year 2 Students

Please remember that when your child moves up to Year 3 you will need to start paying for school lunches unless you have registered for free school meals. This is currently £10.50 per week but will be going up to £11 per week in September.

Lockdown Changes on 29 March

A reminder of the lockdown changes are identified below, these are on the Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

Social contact: The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

Business and activities: Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.

Travel: The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes.

We are always happy to help parents and to review our procedures, if you do require support or have an issue that you need to discuss please do contact us. We hope you all have a lovely break and that the sun shines on Bradford.

Kind regards



Terri Leighton
Principal

