



Shepeau Stow Primary School and
Gedney Hill C.E. Primary School
Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs A Buddle



Shepeau Stow Primary School
Dowsdale Bank, Shepeau Stow
Spalding, Lincs. PE12 OTX

Gedney Hill C.E Primary School
North Road, Gedney Hill
Spalding, Lincs. PE12 ONL

29th January 2021

Dear Parents

First of all, I wish to say thank you for all your support during the current pandemic. I know many of you are facing the challenge of working from home and supporting your children with school work. We do understand how hard it is alongside being separated from families and friends, it is a very difficult time for all of us. Our staff in school all face those challenges too and therefore we wish to support you in any way we can as part of our school community.

I have put together some updates for you below in the hope it answers some of your ongoing questions.

Critical Worker & Vulnerable Pupil place request.

Pupil uptake during this lockdown is much higher than during the previous lockdown. Last time the maximum number of pupils across our federation was 5 pupils. During this lockdown we have around 40 pupils attending on some days across the federation. It is therefore really important that you send in your request for places by Thursday lunchtime each week to enable me to allocate staffing to our bubbles. We DO NOT have all our staff in school as we also have a requirement to deliver remote learning to all our other pupils who are not in school. Balancing this is becoming increasingly difficult as numbers in school increase.

Our bubbles need to be as safe and secure as possible. **In line with government guidance, please only ask for a place if it is absolutely necessary.** We want all our children, staff and families to stay safe during this global pandemic. With this in mind, from next Monday, those pupils at Gedney Hill, in year 3, with a sibling in year 4 or above, will move into the Swallows pupil bubble to reduce pupil numbers in the Robins/Kingfisher bubble.

If you have a member of your household who has symptoms or is waiting for Covid test results, you must keep your children at home until you have a negative result. Please do not send them in to school.

Lateral Flow Testing

You may have recently seen on the news that primary school staff have access to regular testing. Our staff who have opted in to this testing will do so twice weekly at home and notify me of their results should they test positive. The intention of this is to identify asymptomatic people in schools. Currently primary school pupils are not being tested. Should a member of staff test positive using the lateral flow test we will close the bubble and identify close contacts within school. The staff member then has to have the result confirmed by booking an NHS test. If the result is confirmed as positive the bubble will remain closed with all members of that bubble required to isolate in line with government guidance. This could all happen at very short notice.

Online Learning

The engagement with our online learning is fantastic. We can see who has accessed work or is attending the chat sessions. We are keeping a register in school to enable us to support those who are not accessing learning currently. The German lessons are now in the appropriate TEAMS. Mrs Barmby and I will continue to upload stories as frequently as we can.

Teachers are reminding pupils that during the live chat sessions pupils should adopt the learning behaviours that we would expect in the classroom, no eating, wearing hoodies up etc. We are still giving over the first 5 minutes to catch up chat with friends. In some sessions the typed chat is disabled by us to ensure the focus is on discussion rather than typing to friends.

I regularly monitor the activity on the TEAMS sessions during evenings and weekends to ensure it is all being used appropriately.

Parent Catch up Session

Mrs Barmby and I are intending holding a parent catch up session through TEAMS on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. for 45 minutes. This is not for pupils. It is a forum for parents to engage with us and catch up about any questions/concerns you may have. Or just to see a familiar face! If you wish to join the session you will need to send me your email address and in doing so understand that it will be visible to other parents who have asked to be part of the session. We have chosen this time to enable parents to get younger children into bed as this is for parents only.

Free School Meals

Parents in receipt of income based free school meals will receive a voucher for half term. We will return to hampers after the half-term break.

Half Term

School will be closed during half-term. We have not been asked to remain open for any pupils. Parents should make their normal child care arrangements for this time. Half term begins of Monday 15th February.

Pupils & Parents

Staff in school are continually impressed by the resilience your children are showing in the face of this disruption. They continue to be a credit to you all. We can't wait until the day we can welcome them all back into school. We really miss each and every one of them. Please send in your lockdown photos to school and we will put them on the website.

As a final note, please do not worry about not completing all the work set. You are all doing your very best for your children. Everyone has very different circumstances at home and we completely understand. Do email if we can offer help in any way.

Contact information

Curriculum & TEAMS issues

alison.buddle@shepeaustow.lincs.sch.uk & Julie.barmby@shepeaustowlincs.sch.uk Please copy both of us in as we are very stretched for staff at the moment but one of us will deal with any issues as fast as we can.

Safeguarding or well-being concerns

Alison.buddle@shepeaustow.lincs.sch.uk

Free School Meal enquiries

Colette.ladley@shepeaustow.lincs.sch.uk & Julie.belton@gedney-hill.lincs.sch.uk

Website photos

Julie.barmby@shepeaustow.lincs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Alison Buddle

Executive Headteacher