



Chase Lane Primary School and Nursery Unit

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I write with our weekly update and to keep communications open with all of our families.

Last week, the government published further guidance for schools on how to operate during the current lockdown. I am very pleased to report that Chase Lane already had every single measure in place that was required in the guidance.

Today, for the first time in many weeks reported case numbers in Waltham Forest have reduced. Let us all hope that this trend continues, however we must remain vigilant as we could still see an increase based on the relaxation of the rules over the Christmas break. On Thursday 14th January we had a positive case reported to us in a child who had been in attendance at school as a key worker child. The dates suggest that it is possible to have been contracted over the Christmas break. All staff and children have been asked to isolate if they were identified as a possible close contact.

The government have now made it clear to schools regarding the expectations for remote learning:

- In KS1 children should receive at least 3 hours per day. This can decrease for the younger children which is exactly what we have done for our Reception and Nursery children.
- In KS2 children should receive at least 4 hours per day.

Many schools are struggling to provide this but I'm very proud of the way that the staff at Chase Lane have stepped up and the learning offer has been in place since last term! I take this opportunity to again thank all families including those that are trying to juggle working from home, supporting multiple siblings and endeavouring to get the children online for their sessions. It makes the world of difference and means that the children are not missing out on valuable learning.

It has been another truly exceptional week with the online learning. Children have been engaging wonderfully and it is great to hear from many parents about how good the provision for online learning is. We have supported families in many ways to help them get online and this has mainly been loaning devices, especially to families with many children.

Overall engagement from Monday to Thursday of this week is an impressive 92%.

Please see the below for all of the classes that have achieved 100% on different days

	11/01	12/01	13/01	14/01
Ash	87%	77%	80%	87%
Maple	100%	93%	90%	93%
Kapok	78%	70%	67%	77%
Hawthorn	80%	80%	77%	80%
Cherry	93%	93%	90%	97%
Cedar	97%	90%	87%	83%



We have now loaned out so many devices that we have run out of iPads and Laptops. We are in the process of replenishing this stock, so if you still would benefit from an additional device please let Mrs DaSilva know via the school email:- chaselane@clpwortham.org.uk and as soon as the new devices are ready we will contact you to arrange collection.

Some families are reporting connection issues with the internet. Unfortunately, this is one thing that I cannot fix for you. Internet activity will be phenomenal at the moment with children across the country streaming live video. If your connection freezes or the slides do not change on your screen as the teacher is teaching, then I'm afraid the best solution I have is the classic 'turn it off and on again'.

This week it has become clear that there is some confusion regarding 'Universal free school meals', 'Free school meals' and 'food vouchers' (as in the Marcus Rashford scheme).

Sequoia	90%	93%	97%	97%
Elm	97%	90%	93%	90%
Beech	97%	97%	97%	100%
Sycamore	93%	96%	93%	100%
Hazel	96%	100%	100%	100%
Willow	90%	93%	97%	90%
Pine	90%	93%	93%	97%
Palm	100%	100%	100%	97%
Eucalyptus	100%	97%	97%	97%
Acacia	86%	86%	83%	86%
Sassafras	96%	96%	96%	96%
Baobab	83%	90%	83%	90%
Olive	93%	93%	93%	80%
Aspen	100%	96%	100%	96%
Oak	100%	96%	96%	93%
Daily Avg	93%	91%	91%	92%

Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) – This is the scheme that allows all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 access to free school meals **only** when in school. Universal Free School Meal children **are not entitled to the food voucher scheme**.

Free School Meals (FSM) – This allows families who have benefit and income related access to free school meals. This can be for children in any year group from Reception to Year 6. These families **are entitled to the food voucher scheme**.

If you have any further questions regarding the food voucher scheme, please contact the school.

Some families have been asking about homework. This is a difficult decision to have to make as we are very conscious about pupil well-being and the impact this could have on parents who are so stretched. We will be considering next week whether or not to reintroduce our homework expectations and taking into account the need to maintain pupil well-being and your views.

National guidance states that nursery schools should remain open to all pupils. It is our view that for health and safety reasons this is not achievable at Chase Lane. Opening to all would mean a large number of children in close contact with each other and staff. With rates of infection at their highest since the start of the pandemic, this would not be safe and opening could result in a rise in infections among children and staff. For this reason, we are continuing to make provision for children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), social worker or children of Key Workers. We have limited our year group bubbles to 10. This means that places will not be available to all and we do have to prioritise some children over others based on a range of circumstances.

As always, I end this week's update by wishing you all the very best of health and extend my thanks to you all for your continued support in the Chase Lane efforts during the pandemic.

Kind regards
Mr Jeffery

