



The Federation of St Francis Special School Lincoln and Lincoln St Christopher's School

Headteacher Mrs J Davey

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Dear Parent/Carer,

07 January 2021

RE: National lockdown

Firstly, I want to thank you for your support over the last 48 hours, it has been an extremely challenging situation for all schools to rapidly adapt to the national lockdown and school closure.

Keyworkers and vulnerable students:

I want to stress the challenge we have faced in identifying which students are considered to be the most vulnerable and therefore entitled to access to school. No Head teacher wants to have to decide which child can access on site education and which child must access remote learning. If I had a choice and the capacity to do so, I would want every child in school. Unfortunately the severity of the new strain of Covid has resulted in a number of our staff having to return to shielding and the Government guidance on how to ensure a Covid secure environment means that unfortunately we can only have keyworker students and the most vulnerable students in school. You may also be aware that the education unions have also put some additional guidance out to protect their members adding to the complexity of our in school provision.

We have identified the most vulnerable based on those who may be at significant harm at home or harm may come to their household if they were to remain at home. We have also identified those who have social workers and in most case have been able to offer places for these students, unless the reason for social care involvement is purely for respite. In addition our looked after children have also been offered a place.

As we reopen today we have been able to initially offer 76 students a place of which 33 students have Parents/Carers who are keyworkers. It is my intention over the next two days to ascertain if we have enough supervision to be able to take any more students in the hope that we may increase to about 85 students where we can.

Transport:

If your child is accessing school we have temporarily organised transport through Marks, who have been excellent at responding to the change to all routes. However, the Council are asking all parents of students who are accessing school over lockdown to inform the council if their child still needs to use education transport by **Wednesday 13th January 2021**. Parents should complete the request school transport form using the following link <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/468>.

Free school meals and school dinners:

Our kitchens remain open for those accessing school. If parents wish to pay for a hot meal this should be done in the usual way by parent mail. Students who are entitled to free school meals will still get this if they come in to school. Our Business Manager, Georgia Brown is working hard to ensure that those students who are entitled to free school meals but are remaining at home receive their free school meal vouchers. If you have any queries regarding free school meals please email Georgia.brown@lincolnstchristophers.com

Remote learning:

For those students who remain at home, the staff team have been working hard over the last two days to prepare and set up systems for remote learning. We will, in most cases be using Tapestry as our platform for providing students with work. Teachers have been asked to ensure that they do weekly welfare phone calls to those students who remain at home. In addition the staff are in the process of sending a book home which will support the remote learning activities. Our Middle Leaders will be quality assuring the work and we hope that this will provide parents/carers with plenty of high quality resources to support home learning. I must stress

that, as a mum myself, I know the challenges that parents face when trying to get their child to do work at home. In the event that your child is struggling please contact the class teacher. We are encouraging students and parents to take photos of any achievements that students have at home, this does not need to be academic, for example it could be making themselves a sandwich or putting their shoes on. All of these achievements should be equally acknowledged and celebrated.

Safeguarding:

Our Child Protection Team have identified those families who are most vulnerable and will be doing additional welfare phone calls and where needed socially distanced home visits to support the most in need. If you are struggling with your child's behaviours at home please do not hesitate to get in contact the team.

Keeping safe:

Please can I stress the joint responsibility of everybody to ensure that no students come on to site if they are presenting with a new persistent cough, high temperature or loss/change in smell/taste. For us to keep our school open we need to protect our staff and students. Our updated risk assessment is on our website so you can see all the measures we are taking to keep everyone safe.

Contact:

I will send out regular updates via parent mail however should you need to contact the Senior Leadership Team or Wellbeing Team please do not hesitate to do so at the email addresses below:

- Head teacher kyna.adkins@lincolnstchristophers.com
- Assistant Head teacher (lower school) helen.reed@lincolnstchristophers.com
- Assistant Head teacher (upper school) niall.mccordick@lincolnstchristophers.com
- Wellbeing Lead (lower school) jessica.keay@lincolnstchristophers.com
- Wellbeing Lead (upper school) holly.strachan@lincolnstchristophers.com

We will continue to support our staff, pupils and school community in any way we can. I want to thank the staff team for their fantastic work over the last week to ensure that we provide the very best we can in these challenging circumstances. Please stay safe and look after each other and do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support.

Yours sincerely,

Kyna Adkins

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Head teacher