

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the third week of this National Lockdown draws to a close, I am writing to give you the latest Iqra school updates which have occurred throughout the lockdown so far. I do pray and hope that you continue to stay safe and that those of you who are currently unwell, make a fast recovery.

The government have issued many guidance documents for schools and families during this national lockdown and these can be accessed on <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. We will update you as soon as we have any additional government guidance regarding return to school.

### **Free School Meals**

The headlines last week have been full of the Free School Meals Hamper fiasco! Luckily for Iqra Primary, I took the decision not to provide hampers, simply due to the large numbers we would need to provide and the increased risk of infection when getting these hampers to families. I am now so glad that I made that decision and I am hopeful that those of you who are eligible for Free School Meals have received vouchers via email. Any queries you may have please email the school office at [office@iqra.slough.sch.uk](mailto:office@iqra.slough.sch.uk)

If you have not yet applied for Free School meals but you think you may be eligible, please email the school office at [office@iqra.slough.sch.uk](mailto:office@iqra.slough.sch.uk) with your enquiries.

### **Microsoft Teams**

A huge thankyou to those of you who have worked so hard over the past 3 weeks to try to access the live lessons and online work which the teachers are setting for your children. This is a new way of working for all of us and it will take some of you slightly longer to work it all out. If you are struggling to access live lessons or work on MS Teams, please send an email to our dedicated parent support email address on [parentconnect@iqra.slough.sch.uk](mailto:parentconnect@iqra.slough.sch.uk). We endeavour to answer all emails daily from 9am to 12pm. Please also check the school website – remote learning page - for further support and guidance documents about accessing MS Teams.

## **Remote Learning Devices**

We have received our allocation of laptops from the government and these have been allocated to the families identified as most in need. However, many of you have requested that we provide you with a laptop or device to enable you to access the online lessons and website activities which we are providing. Unfortunately, we do not have enough devices to meet the requests from all families. For those parents who do require a device, Iqra school will place your name on a school waiting list whilst reviewing your request. Please email [office@iqra.slough.sch.uk](mailto:office@iqra.slough.sch.uk).

For those of you who have received a device from school, please can I remind you about the loan agreement you signed including the agreement that the device will be used to access school-based activities only.

## **Paper packs**

If at any time, you need to collect a paper pack of work from school, please just call the office and they will prepare one for you. These are updated fortnightly, depending on the Year group, so there will be plenty of activities to focus your children. Packs and exercise books can be collected from the school office between 9am and 11am every day.

## **On-Line Safety**

To ensure that both pupils and staff stay safe whilst accessing online learning, we ask that parents support by doing the following:

- Ensure that your child accesses their online lesson in a communal part of the home (e.g. the kitchen or living room), under adult supervision.
- Ensure that pupils are punctual and dressed appropriately for timetabled live sessions.
- Check that your child's camera is on, with a neutral or blurred background, to support an effective learning experience.
- Be mindful about what family activities could potentially be heard/seen during the pupils' use of video conferencing.
- Set up parental controls on your child's device. For more information on how to activate parental controls on different platforms and devices, visit Internet Matters.
- Ensure that your child has time away from the screen

Teachers will ask for cameras on (with a blurred background) to support an effective learning experience.

### How can you help?

Obviously most of you are trying to balance teaching and working, or caring for other family members. It's a very difficult situation for everyone and we are doing the best we can in school to help you in every way possible. Please try to do a little every day to keep your child's brain ticking over. Obviously the more they can do and the more they can access on line lessons, the better for everyone - but don't worry if your child can't do everything including all the assignments on line. However, please don't stop doing any school-based work! Listen in to the live lessons every day at the very least!

Lastly, remember that although school is closed, we are trying to provide a full education for your child as far as is possible. You will find yourselves having to play a much more active role in your homes. Never before has the burden of responsibility between schools and parents been shared in this way. We are here to support you and your children; please do let us know how we can support you more.

If you need any support of any kind, please contact school on [office@iqra.slough.sch.uk](mailto:office@iqra.slough.sch.uk) or by calling 01753 520018, or let your child's class teacher know when they call you to see how you are doing. If you don't ask, we can't help!

Yours sincerely,

Dr M Maher  
Headteacher