



11 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I sincerely hope that you and your families are healthy and well, and that you have not been affected by the increasing prevalence of COVID in Somerset and the South West.

Whilst we knew that the start of term was going to look and feel a little bit different, last week's announcement that we will be in another national lockdown and partial school closures until February half term (as a minimum) was as much of a shock to us as it was to everyone else. I know what a challenging time this will be for many families and recognise that, whilst we all understand the need for a further lockdown and action, it will not make life easier for any of us.

As in previous lockdowns, we are here for both the pupils and our families. All of the staff team are working incredibly hard to teach, support and guide the pupils. We would certainly prefer school to be fully open as it is less stressful and far more enjoyable teaching face-to-face! As we move to teaching remotely, I would like to provide a couple of important messages/reminders:

## School Work

Work will be set to follow the children's normal timetable each day. All lessons will be posted onto Edmodo, our learning platform, with any live lessons accessed through Microsoft Teams. The links to these live lessons are posted onto Edmodo class pages where pupils and staff can communicate safely.

Lessons will contain a mix of:

- Live lessons taught in real time by staff, which will be recorded to protect both pupils and staff
- Pre-recorded lessons which can be watched at any time
- On line resources to complete independently with teacher availability through Edmodo during the hour when the lesson is taking place
- Where a member of staff is in school supporting pupils who are attending due to their parents critical worker status, staff will provide work along with a message saying they will pick up any issues at a later time

There are also a few expectations that I need to share with you as parents and pupils:

Pupils should:

- Treat the lesson the same way that they would in a classroom at school
- Dress appropriately and engage from a suitable location in the home (this may need to be somewhere other than their bedroom)
- Ensure that their language and behaviour remains respectful. Poor behaviour from pupils will be challenged by staff
- Prepare correctly for each lesson so that they can engage with their learning and contribute to discussions



Fairlands Middle School

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E-Mail: [office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk](mailto:office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk) Website: [www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk)

Headteacher: Stefan McHale  
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud  
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

**Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.**

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads  
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224



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Parent/carers should:

- Support their child to engage in virtual learning and be on time for lessons
- Provide a suitable location for their child to learn from without distractions
- Maintain appropriate dress, behaviour and language, especially when within earshot or sight of the camera

## Mental Health

We all learned lessons during and after the last lockdown. To help support each other we have combined some of the best feedback/advice that we received from families on how to successfully negotiate lockdown and support each other:

- Keep a routine – having the same patterns (including bed time and wake up time) as a normal school day will hugely help regulate students' bodies and minds
- Eat as healthily as possible and as regularly as if at school. This will help with energy levels for learning, as will regular exercise (within the government guidelines)
- Manage screen time sensibly as it can be an easy 'go to' for pupils during lockdown
- Encourage pupils to be open about their work by discussing what work they have to complete each morning and check on their progress through the day. Celebrate successes with them and help where you can. You are not alone with this so please get in contact with your child's subject teachers or tutor if we can help at all
- Acknowledge that your son/daughter may have some good days and some bad – just like in school
- Something as simple and enjoyable as reading together can be a nice way to engage with school work together.

I will communicate regularly and keep you up-to-date with any further developments as we go. If you have any feedback or suggestions on how we can better support pupils and families then please do feel free to contact us on [office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk](mailto:office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk)

Thank you in advance for your hard work and support in helping your child with their learning during the lockdown period. Thank you for the vital role that you will play in these continued difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale  
Headteacher



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