

New Siblands Primary  
Gillingstool  
Thornbury  
South Gloucestershire  
BS35 2EG  
Tel. 01454 866754  
DfE School Number 803/7031  
enquiries@newsiblands.org.uk  
www.newsiblands.org.uk



New Siblands School  
*"Achievement, Belonging, Celebration"*

Valuing every child through fostering independence,  
inclusion, trust, respect and support

Headteacher: Ms Carrie Osmond

New Siblands Secondary  
Easton Hill Road  
Thornbury  
South Gloucestershire  
BS35 2JU  
Tel. 01454 862888

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

### **Re: Lockdown update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all keeping well and adjusting to the many challenges of this third national lockdown. Of course, education is one of these challenges, whether your child is at home or school, and we know how much more difficult this is for our pupils, who thrive on routine and repetition. Once again disruption is necessary in order to maintain safety. However, we are already looking forward to the day when we can safely welcome all of our pupils back into school.

It feels like a good time to share news and important information from New Siblands and to give you an overview of what we are doing to support the school community.

### **Reduced onsite provision**

Demand for onsite provision has been high and we have accepted 37% of pupils to the reduced provision. Most pupil placements are on a part-time basis in order to ensure that the space they are in is as safe as possible. Critical workers have been asked to keep their children at home on days that they don't work, in order that we can accommodate this increased demand.

At present we are not always able to cover staff absence, and when these occur we **may need to ask individual pupils to stay at home** until we have sufficient staff numbers again. We will do this on a rota basis.

### **Supported Home Learning**

Supported home learning groups and staff teams have been set up for pupils who are staying at home full time. Each pupil will receive a personalised weekly timetable of activities linked to the school curriculum and their personal learning goals. There will be an online element to the learning including teaching videos on the YouTube channel and Zoom events. The staff team will need to maintain contact with you throughout this period.

### **Blended Learning**

Pupils who have a part time placement on site, will also have a timetable of activities for the days when they are learning from home.

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### **Evidence For Learning**

The Evidence for Learning app is a key way we can share information about your child's progress, especially if they are at home. If you are not signed up to this, or are having difficulty accessing it, please let us know.

### **Annual Reviews**

Annual reviews will continue to be conducted virtually. If your child's teacher is working onsite, they may not be able to attend but will provide a report.

### **School Meals**

School meals are available onsite. We are issuing school meals vouchers where pupils are entitled to benefits-related free school meals for all days when they are not onsite.

### **Food Banks**

We are able to make referrals to local food banks. Please contact Hazel Sinclair for this.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

We are conducting a pilot for delivering lateral flow testing initially to onsite staff starting next week.

### **New roles**

Nicola Moss is the Learning Continuity Leader, who is co-ordinating the supported home learning offer.

Alice Walton is the Community Resilience Leader, who will be co-ordinating activities that maintain our sense of being a school community.

Krissy Emery is the Pupil's Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader, who will co-ordinate the recovery curriculum and social, emotional and mental health aspects of our school curriculum.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to the school community for the many messages of support we have received. We are always sustained by your positive feedback. Similarly, we want you to know we are here to support you at this difficult time so do let us know if there is anything further we can help you with.

Best wishes,

Carrie Osmond Headteacher