Good Afternoon Everyone,

Who knew when the week started that we would be back in lockdown and home schooling? I am sure, like us, that you were all reeling with shock, followed by panic, and dismay. We are hopeful now that we have started to get our heads around how things are going to work and to settle into some sort of routine.

Our staff have all risen to the challenge and been rapidly turning our contingency plans into action. Tuesday saw every classroom scattered with books as they sorted out books for home ready for collection. Thank you to everyone who came up to collect the books as it will make such a difference to the children being able to work in the format they know and recognise.

Teachers have planned to ensure there is a much greater teacher presence this time through videos, powerpoints and such like as well as using the power maths materials. Some have started to venture into Teams, but please be patient as they are trying to keep up with what we know works as well as to try out new ideas and resources too. We want to make sure that what we are offering meet the needs of all our children and is flexible enough to meet the needs of all our parents as well.

Wednesday saw the pandemonium of Tapestry overload as everything fell apart spectacularly and refused to work. As usual, everyone coped magnificently and gradually we have seen you all uploading work and responding to support and advice from our staff.

We have a limited number of ipads and dongles which we have loaned to those who are struggling with limited access to devices to try and ease things. We have also ordered our laptops through the government scheme but we have not yet had confirmation of when these will arrive. If you are struggling please contact school and we will see what we can do to help. We may not be able to respond instantly but at least we will be able to start a waiting list for when the laptops arrive. You may also qualify for increased data funded by the Department of Education. I have added the information below or you can follow this link: [INCREASE MOBILE DATA FORM - JAN 2021](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.woodkirkacademy.co.uk%2Fnews%2F92%2Fincrease-in-mobile-data-allowance&data=04%7C01%7Cbarton.j%40woodkirkacademy.com%7C728da4a08fe84805c15208d8b25d64a2%7Ce2e4aaaf26cc41ce931b42cd6c1623cc%7C0%7C0%7C637455461495985940%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JXJ40b9%2BcplUvDJ7jeH4wJTG7VG0RhTjoLfzG6Dab%2Fc%3D&reserved=0).

We have moved to vouchers for those children entitled to free school meals but not able to attend school, so if you do find your financial circumstances change please do go on to the Leeds Council website to check your eligibility. This is the link here: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals>

School will be informed and will either provide a hot meal if your child is in school or a voucher if your child is in nursery, or at home. Let us know if you need any help.

Obviously opening school to our vulnerable children and children of key workers has presented lots of stress for parents. Whilst the government is suggesting that any vulnerable child, nursery child or key worker child is able to be in school their overriding message is **stay at home to stay safe**. We have been left to decide what we feel is safe for the children and staff in our school and to put appropriate measures in place to facilitate both. We are not going to make any sweeping changes to our provision at this time but will have to monitor the situation carefully to ensure it remains safe and that we are able to offer education of the highest quality both in school and remotely.

Over the coming weeks things will change and I am sure that by the time we get to the end of week three things will look very different both in our home learning and at school. It is both our priority and the government priority to reopen primary schools as quickly as possible, but with such high infection rates and hospital admissions this is not going to be before February half-term.

Ms Talbot

**INCREASING DATA ALLOWANCES ON MOBILE PHONES**

**Get internet access with an increase in mobile data**The Leodis Academies Trust (*Blackgates Primary Academy, East Ardsley Primary Academy, Hilltop Primary Academy, Westerton Primary Academy, Woodkirk Academy*) can help certain students get online using free mobile data increases funded by the Department for Education. You can request this support if each of the following applies:

* your child is learning from home due to the disruption with face-to-face education;
* the children for whom you’re responsible do not have enough phone data to access on-line learning each and this needs increasing.

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on [certain networks](https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data). This will allow other devices to connect to the internet via a mobile phone so children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

## **Who can get help**

## Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

* do not have fixed broadband at home
* cannot afford additional data for their devices
* are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children / parents / other appropriate family members with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

* Three
* Smarty
* Virgin Mobile
* EE
* Tesco Mobile
* Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

**HOW TO REQUEST MORE MOBILE DATA –** [**PLEASE CLICK HERE AND COMPLETE THE FORM.**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPage.aspx?fragment=FormId%3Dr6rk4swmzkGTG0LNbBYjzOoj5qdPGQlCuyCKOp3MdcZUMVI2MkE3NkJWUzRKOEM2VURCOTJLVDZWUS4u)

You will also be asked to let us know that you have read the DfE’s Privacy Policy which outlines how your data will be used – [CLICK TO READ](https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/guide-to-collecting-mobile-information/privacy)



Remember to apply for a Reception place at our school for September 2021 by Friday January 15th 2021.

A place in our nursery does not guarantee you a place in school. You must apply!