

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you once again today with a weekly update as we continue to support our pupils, students and their families during the national lockdown. We have also shared the latest video update on our social media pages earlier today, which further explains the points below and showcases the teaching groups and classes who have impressed our staff with their remote learning engagement. Please take some time to watch the video with your child/ren, here:

<https://youtu.be/e1u4BJnl1oc>

This week, we have been featured in the Lancashire Telegraph after we recently discovered a number of photo-cards from the 1930s. We hope you enjoy looking at these photos with your children, some of whom may recognise one or two spaces that are still in use in school today. You can see the article, [here](#).

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week is Place2Be's 'Children's Mental Health Week' which aims to support children with their mental wellbeing. It is a very important time for us to be highlighting this conversation and as such, we have shared a wealth of resources on our website [here](#) and in your child's Google Classroom. I also encourage you to follow our Twitter account (@QEGS\_Blackburn) and Facebook page as we continue to share more useful information each day this week.

As always, if you have any concerns or require any support with your child's mental health, we ask you to please contact their Form Tutor or Head of Year in the first instance so we can understand the correct support your child requires. Parents and carers in the Primary Phase should contact their child's class teacher or Mrs Southworth for further support.

### **Elevate Webinars**

As a reminder, Elevate Education are continuing to deliver a range of webinars for parents and carers, with the next session taking place this coming Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup> February), 6-7pm. The webinar is titled 'Managing Stress and Wellbeing' and will discuss how to establish and maintain good routines during lockdown. To register, or view the schedule for future webinars, please click here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>. To view the last webinar, which focused on motivation, please click here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/replay>.

### **Google Classroom: Email Summaries**

As per my letter last week, if you have not received an email with the subject 'Get Google Classroom email summaries for [child's name]' in recent months, please check your junk folder so that you can receive regular updates on your child's remote learning. If you cannot find the email after checking your junk folder, please contact our IT Technician, Mr Hilton, via [LHilton@QEGSBlackburn.com](mailto:LHilton@QEGSBlackburn.com) and he will be able to help.

### **February Half term**

School will close to all pupils and students on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February ahead of an INSET day for all staff on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. No work will be set over the half term break to give all pupils, students and staff a well-deserved rest. School will re-open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for our vulnerable children and children of critical workers who have a confirmed place in school. Those who do not have a confirmed place but would like to request a place for their child for after the half term break should email [criticalworker@QEGSBlackburn.com](mailto:criticalworker@QEGSBlackburn.com) with the child's name, year group and reason for

attending. We will communicate any plans for a wider reopening to other year groups once we have further information from the government.

Below I have shared some information which has not changed since my last letter but is an important reminder should you require it. We will share any further updates on our website and social media, so please continue to check these regularly.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a good week.

Best wishes,

Mrs CY Gammon

### **Critical worker/vulnerable children**

We have approximately 200 pupils and students in school per day, classed as either vulnerable children or children of critical workers. Whilst we welcome these pupils and students into school, please ensure that you only request a place in school if you absolutely require one. Where possible, please do keep your children at home unless they are classed as vulnerable so that we can support the overall aim of reducing infection rates in the area and can continue to protect our community. As a reminder, please email [criticalworker@QEGSBlackburn.com](mailto:criticalworker@QEGSBlackburn.com) if you wish to request a place in school for your child/ren.

We understand the challenges of remote learning whilst parents and carers work from home and although we encourage children to follow their timetable as closely as possible, we do not expect all lessons to be followed live as we appreciate the difficulties of accommodating the balance of working from home whilst supporting the learning of your children. All teachers are available during normal school hours and are keen to support every pupil and student so please do encourage your children to use this support.

### **COVID updates**

We have a duty to report to the Department for Education on the COVID-19 situation in our school and wider community. Therefore, please do keep us informed if your child is self-isolating for any reason. You can do this by emailing [reportchildabsence@qegsblackburn.com](mailto:reportchildabsence@qegsblackburn.com) or calling 01254 686300. In addition, if your child has to take a COVID-19 test, please email me directly with the details of the test date and the outcome, at the earliest opportunity, so we can continue to report this information to the DfE.

As mentioned in my previous letter, if you require equipment to aid with your child's remote learning, please email [homeit@QEGSBlackburn.com](mailto:homeit@QEGSBlackburn.com) and we will do our best to fulfil your request. We have a small number of devices left in school which we are happy to loan to pupils and students, regardless of their year group.

### **Symptoms of Covid-19**

The symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are a new continuous cough or a high temperature (over 37.8°C) or Anosmia (the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect sense of taste as the two are closely linked). If your child or any member of their household has any of these symptoms, then your child must not come to school.

If your child is ill due to having symptoms of Covid-19, please notify school immediately, marking your email as urgent, follow the PHE 'stay at home' guidance, which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and arrange for your child to have a Covid-19 test immediately to ensure

full engagement with the test and trace system. Please inform school immediately of the results of the test. A member of school staff will contact you during the first day of absence to confirm dates of the isolation period. This also applies if your child is isolating due to being in direct contact with someone who has symptoms of Covid-19.

If your child becomes ill with symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day they will be immediately placed in isolation (in accordance with government guidance) and you will be contacted and asked to collect them. If you cannot be reached, the other contacts given will be called as it is essential for your child to go home as soon as possible.

If your child has a positive result from a Covid-19 test, then they must inform the school immediately and follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19. They must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The rest of the household must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'.

If your child has a negative result from a Covid-19 test then they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period.

I ask that you keep a close eye on your children and do not send them into school if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. This is to ensure the safety of the whole QEGS community. If you do decide for your child to have a Covid-19 test then please do not send them into school until the result of the test is known, even if they seem well.

If your child is self-isolating then please do email myself at [head@qegsblackburn.com](mailto:head@qegsblackburn.com) as we are endeavouring to keep detailed records of who is isolating and for what reason. The details that I need are whether they are isolating due to a member of the household or due to a close contact outside of the household/school and, if so, what date the isolation ends or if they are isolating due to having symptoms themselves and, if so, have they had a test and when. If your child has had a test then please do email me the results so that we can update our records.

### **Shielding**

If your child still requires to shield, then please contact Mr NH Vyse via email, [nvyse@qegsblackburn.com](mailto:nvyse@qegsblackburn.com), to explain the reasons why your child can not attend school. Mr Vyse will then contact parents/carers directly to discuss the situation including appropriate measures.

### **Travel**

We ask that all parents and carers think carefully about how their child travels to school. Please read and follow the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) when planning your travel. **If your child is traveling by public transport then they will be expected to wear a face covering.** The preferred method is to walk when possible following social distancing measures.