



# Newsletter

Dear Parents & Friends,

It has been another week of news, speculation and changing guidance. Things are certainly not going to be back to 'normal' for a long time. I completely understand your concerns and frustrations – we have them here in school too. I know that I have said it before, but I am very grateful to my staff for continuing to work with the children of Key Workers with a smile, even though they have many worries themselves. I know that the children are coming into a happy environment and this is something that we will always strive to provide.

## Claiming Free School Meals

During these difficult times, you may find that you are in a difficult position financially. It is possible that you qualify for Free School Meals for your child. At present, this is in the form of online vouchers which you can spend in a supermarket of your choice. The application process is **NOT THROUGH SCHOOL** – but through your Council (Lancashire or Bury). Once you have qualified for FSM, the council will contact school to confirm that you are eligible.

## Eligibility

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, that eligibility will be protected until Universal Credit is introduced (expected March 2022) even if your circumstances change. If your child is still in education on this date, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in. If you have a younger child starting school in September and you are no longer eligible, they will not be protected because this would be a new claim.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/> , children, education & families , schools , free school meals  
or ring your local area education office:

Rossendale / Stubbins Tel: 01254 220 747 Open Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm. Closed for bank holidays.  
Bury / Ramsbottom <https://www.bury.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> Tel: 0161 253 5000

*Also, general help is available from Rossendale Connected at:*



 01706 227016

 [help@rossendaleconnected.org](mailto:help@rossendaleconnected.org)

 Rossendale Connected

Providing support for vulnerable residents across the Rossendale community

**For those in Bury, support can be requested from Bury Community Hubs by phoning their contact team.  
Contact them by Dialling: 0161 253 5353 (7 days a week, 9am to 5pm).**

To receive this Newsletter by email, simply contact [head@stubbins.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@stubbins.lancs.sch.uk) .

*Mr. J. DANSON*

**SEND Resource Toolkit**

I have attached the latest edition of the SEND Resource Toolkit, which is full of useful ideas, not only for children with Special Educational Needs, but for all.

**Re-Opening in June**

You will have a million questions about the proposed phased re-opening in June. I know that you will have been communicating on social media about it. Our plans have already begun – the first draft was on Monday. Several announcements later – and a new publication came out last night. Some things I can share are:

- Key-Worker childcare will continue.
- Home learning resources will continue to be provided for all year groups.
- When we re-open, school will be different. Many of the things we do – especially at the lower end of school, will not be possible because we will need to keep everything hygienic and avoid sharing as much as possible.
- Children will not be back in whole classes – we have been advised 15 children in a group at the most, and those groups are to be kept apart during the whole school day –separate playtimes, meals served in classrooms etc. Clearly this means that your child may not be taught by their current teacher.
- We will try to implement some social distancing for the children, and classrooms are being re-arranged to make this possible.
- Hygiene is obviously vital, and we are ensuring that the areas to be used are cleanable and that hand soap, paper towels, disposable tissues etc. are all available.
- I absolutely understand that parents need to see our plan before they commit to sending their child in. I intend to publish this as soon as it is finalised.
- The guidance is that I should strongly encourage parents to send their children into school when they become eligible (i.e. when we open for their year group.) Attendance is not, however, compulsory and I would support any parent in doing what they feel is best for their child’s wellbeing.
- School opening is entirely dependent on the Staff and Governors at Stubbins being satisfied that it is practical and safe to do so.

All of us at Stubbins School will continue to provide help and support to our families, whether in school or at home. We are all finding this rather difficult and I thank you for your understanding. The messages of support you have sent to us have been invaluable.

*Stay Well 😊*

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*Mr. J. DANSON*