Dear Parents and Carers,

Partial Closure – Home Learning for Selected Year Groups

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Unfortunately there has been a significant increase in COVID and non-COVID related absence among staff over the last 7 days. The COVID absences reflect rising case numbers this week in East Ayrshire and beyond.

Therefore, in consultation and agreement with the Chief Education Officer, we have taken the decision to move to remote learning for selected year groups. We deeply regret this decision but we have no alternative in the circumstances described. We have prioritised making this decision in advance to give as much notice to parents and carers as possible.

By calling in all available supply staff we have also been able to delay the implementation of this until Thursday 17h March.

The plan is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Thursday 17th March | S3pupils to work from home |
| Friday 18th March | S1pupils to work from home |

**We are hopeful that staffing levels will improve in readiness for week beginning 21th March and further updates on this situation will be given through this week.** Any decision about next week will be shared before the weekend.

Pupils with free school meal entitlement

Any pupil in a year group which is working from home and who receives a free school meal will still be entitled to their free school meal each day. Further information on how the meals will be issued will be shared with pupils and parents within the next 24 hours.

School Transport

School transport arrangements will not be affected by this announcement and will run as normal.

Resources for working from home

**Please note** that pupils working from home should work on subjects missed by logging on to Teams through Glow. Departments have work posted on Teams at the moment and this work should be completed in the first instance.

Due to the high level of absence amongst staff it will not be possible to offer live teaching or ‘drop in sessions’ on these days of working from home.

This is different from previous lockdown events when the whole staff were available for online teaching. In this particular scenario, all staff in school will be actively involved in teaching classes.

In conclusion, I apologise that remote learning has become necessary for the period highlighted. For those pupils who are coming to school, I would like to emphasise the importance of taking regular Lateral Flow Tests, hand hygiene and the wearing of face coverings in social areas around the school, and clearly by personal choice, use of face coverings would be hugely appreciated in classrooms at this time, although not mandatory.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

P.Gilchrist

Peter Gilchrist

Head of Barony Campus