

**Weekly Communication update 21/07/21**

Dear families,  
Welcome to this week's Communication update.

<p><b>General Update</b></p>	<p>I would like to start by thanking you all for your support over the past couple of weeks when I have been contacting you and asking your children to self-isolate. I understand that this has been such a difficult time and one that has been filled with uncertainty. The guidance is very clear on asking pupils to self-isolate. This guidance has now been updated and self-isolation guidance for under 18's changes from August 16th meaning that they will not have to isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive. Self-isolation rules do remain in place still for anyhow who tested positive for Covid.</p> <p>You have been sent your child's new timetable for September. Just a gentle reminder that they will need to wear their PE kit on the days when they have PE. School uniforms must be worn on other days.</p> <p>You have also been sent this term's newsletter. Thanks to Sean who created this and to the staff who inputted - it is a real celebration of pupils' work at Bensham Manor.</p> <p>Your child may have increased online access over the holidays. Please check your parental controls to ensure that they are not accessing unsuitable content. Please visit the NSPCC if you need further support: <a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/</a></p> <p>Additionally, Bensham pupils often find communicating with peers quite tricky. Online conversations can quickly escalate into arguments. If your child has a phone, please regularly check the content of messages, particularly Whatsapp. Ensure your child is not being added to groups of people that are not their friends and if ever in doubt please simply block any numbers that you cannot identify.</p> <p>If you need support with your own or your child's mental health over the holiday period please contact your GP in the first instance. I am also giving you the link to a directory of services which supports a variety of issues: <a href="http://directory.mindincroydon.org.uk/">http://directory.mindincroydon.org.uk/</a></p> <p>I would like to finish by wishing you all a happy and healthy Summer break. I am looking forward to seeing your children again in September.</p> <p>Any urgent queries over the Summer break can be directed to: <a href="mailto:theoffice@benshammanor.com">theoffice@benshammanor.com</a></p>
<p><b>Free School Meal Vouchers</b></p>	<p>Vouchers to the value of £60 will be sent to all families who are in receipt of free school meals to cover the Summer period. Vouchers will be with you by Thursday at 2pm. Please check your emails.</p>
<p><b>Key Dates and staggered return in September</b></p>	<p>This term pupils finish at 1.20pm on Thursday June 22nd.</p> <p>We have been instructed to carry out 2 lateral flow tests on pupils in school on their return in September. If you have already given permission for testing you do not need to do so again. If you have not given permission and would like to do so please email: <a href="mailto:theoffice@benshammanor.com">theoffice@benshammanor.com</a></p> <p>If your child has recently had Covid then they will not be tested on their return to school as per the guidance.</p> <p>Return to school is as follows:          Year 7 and Year 11 - Monday September 6th          Year 10 and Post 16 - Tuesday September 7th          Year 8 and Year 9 - Wednesday September 8th</p>