



Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a good weekend, found some time to relax and are all safe and well. Thank you for your ongoing patience and positivity with school as we continue to provide the best learning and support we can for the children and the school community during this ongoing unusual period. As we progress through this period there will be some 'tweaks' to the online learning as it is reviewed and adapted to be as beneficial as possible. We will let you know of any changes.

I am sure you will agree that the news regarding the rate of transmission and rapid rise in cases has been quite alarming. In response, the Government has reiterated that whilst schools are to be open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, wherever possible children should be kept at home. **“Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.”** [Government publication Covid 19 Education settings.](#)

The number of children in our school continues to rise with an ever decreasing demand for places. To put this in some context, in the first lock-down we had daily numbers of below 20, this time we have between 40 and 80 children in each day. Many thanks to the families who have looked at managing their shift patterns as critical workers to try and make sure their children don't have to come in every day. We do urge families to keep children at home on days when they are not working in a critical capacity, even if that means that the children come into school for sporadic days across the week. There are some children who we have encouraged to attend school to meet their particular needs and it is important that these children are still able to access the support they need in school.

We are very sympathetic to the challenges of trying to work at home whilst the children are learning at home and we have tried to design an on-line learning provision to help with this as much as possible. Our learning in school is parallel to the on-line learning so that children can be learning purely at home, school or a combination of both. Even if you had informed us that your child would be in school for the day but you find you are able to keep them at home, please do keep them at home. You just need to let the office know that your child won't be in on that day as expected.

The online learning timetables continue to be posted by each year group onto Google Classroom. Each year group still has three 'check-ins' through the day – first thing in the morning, an on-line lesson and an end of day 'get-together'. It is lovely to see all the children at home and we have been very impressed with the amount and quality of learning which the children have been submitting onto Google Classroom. Every bit of learning helps! It is also great to hear on the 'stream' about other activities the children have been up to – painting, muddy walks, making bird feeders etc. We really do have some very busy and creative children!

Thank you for your continued support so we can all work together to help lower the transmission of the virus at this critical and unsettling time.

Yours Faithfully



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