

Good afternoon Parents and Carers (Lots to read and digest.... Please take the time)

Well we almost made it to the end Week 5 without being too Covid affected! Fantastic joint effort from everyone, thanks especially to you all for your engagement with the school systems and for doing your very best to ensure social distancing happens when on the school site. We are so grateful for your support and for following the rules. I recognise these are not always easy, but they are necessary to keep everyone safe and well. We are also aware that when a bubble does need to isolate, it heightens tensions too and thank you for trusting that we follow the guidance we are given very carefully and inform you as swiftly as we can as things materialise.

With our creative and open environment it is likely that year group bubbles will be affected if we have a positive case and in this situation, remote learning will kick in as swiftly as possible and teaching staff are preparing for this to happen. For Early Years pupils we will be using mainly Tapestry & Parent Hub and further up the school Google Classroom and Seesaw as platforms to share work and develop our remote learning. One of our key priorities this year is to continue to develop this "blended learning" so that we are making the best use of the technology both in school and at home in order to provide the best home learning we can. You will have received a recent google form all about the access you have at home. Please complete this as soon as possible.

Your child's current "homework" is being set using the IT platform that the class is using and so you will be getting used to seeing this on your phone, tablet or laptop/PC.

If you do not have access to the home learning work (if your child was sent home to isolate for example), you must let us know asap please. The easiest way is to let your child's teacher know, or contact the school.

We are learning so much as we go along and something really useful for us all to understand is attachment 1 that shows what information school would need to collect as soon as possible in the event of a positive case for a child at school. You might want to keep a copy handy so that you can access it at short notice if we need to call you.

Farewell, Good Luck and on Standby!

I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Tiffany good luck as she leaves us for her maternity period. Such an exciting time of life, preparing to welcome a new member to the family!

Meanwhile Mr Hodges is on standby. He and his wife are awaiting their arrival imminently and we wish them both good luck too. He will commence his two week paternity, of course, at very short notice and to reassure parents and pupils in his class, we have been doing much preparation in the background to ensure there will be a smooth continuity of learning whilst he is away. We have school based staff on standby and our partnership with SupportEd means we have experienced teachers on standby who know our school systems and routines. We will of course keep you posted as a group of parents.

Before School Wrap Around Care Provision

We are now able to start Before School Club at 7:45a.m - please take advantage of this, if mornings are a challenge for you. We cannot yet cater for food, so the children will still need to have eaten a good breakfast at home before they attend.

When arriving and leaving school

Please try to wear a mask as you are arriving at the school gates, when you are on site and leaving our site until away from busy areas (unless there is a medical reason not to of course). This is where we can stand together and support our clinically vulnerable members of the community to feel safer as well as our staff and pupils. It is a request - and one that has also been specifically asked for by some of our vulnerable community members - but one that I am sure you understand is so important and appreciated.

Please continue with the following requests

Nobody (apart from Nursery attendees or Before School Clubbers) **should be arriving at school before 8:40 at the earliest**

Year 6 pupils please arrive after 8:45

All children should be provided with a coat

Please keep your children close to you during drop off and pick up for everyone's safety.

Please keep the school gate entrances, exits and pavements outside as clear as possible for everyone making journeys

If you haven't already provided a spare named warm top in a named carrier bag in case of rain on PE day then please do.

Great work!

We have seen a number of fantastic projects developing across school. For example our year 6 pupils have been building pyramids and our year 3 pupils have travelled back in time to meet George Stephenson!! How on earth have they done that? I hear you say.

Quiz them on what they have found out so far!!

World Mental Health Day

Today we have marked world mental health day by wearing something yellow, trialling a Covid safe collection fund raiser and carrying out very important discussion at different levels for different age groups around the importance of being able to help and support each other when we feel alone. A feeling we will all have at some point in our lives.

My favourite pieces of advice and guidance from our pupils so far have been '**reach out to a friend or family member**', '**speak to someone on the phone, rather than messaging**'

'spend time doing hobbies' and **'spend time with your pets'**

How sensible and pragmatic are they!

A Game Challenge

We are looking for researchers or clever inventive people to take part in our challenge.

The game has to have virtually no equipment and involve as little contact as possible. If you think you can do it, print the game challenge attachment and follow the instructions by next Friday

Have a great weekend.

Chris Evans