

**Anson Newsletter 16**

**8.1.2021**

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a start to 2021!

I would first like to wish you all a happy New Year, and hope that you were able to celebrate Christmas in one way or another. We know that it was a very different experience for most of you, but I hope you were able to enjoy time shared with your family.

It has been rather a challenging start to the term. We were all prepared to welcome our children back into school on Monday, and then told on Monday night that this was going to change: for the majority of our children they had to adjust and begin learning from home. After we digested this devastating news, all the staff began the very difficult job of adjusting their work. Teachers, for example, changed all their planning that had been completed for the term, to online teaching which I can assure you was incredibly difficult. However, as dedicated professionals, they did this and were ready for providing lessons for the children Wednesday morning. They also set to providing their classes with resources so that parents/carers didn’t have to print them. These steps were all made because staff at Anson feel it is their duty to do the best they possibly can for their community. The closure of school has, without doubt, put pressure on families and therefore we have tried and continue to try our very best to support you at this time.

**Home Learning**

The children have all managed to attend their Google Meets this week which is fantastic. They have also been able to talk with their teachers and teaching assistants about their learning every day. We really appreciate all your support ensuring your child/children are dressed, and are ready for their registration each morning. We know that sometimes this will be difficult to achieve but we want the children to have a routine and structure to the day which will help them achieve a feeling of normality during such times. Children staying connected to their class teachers, teaching assistants and friends is vital for children’s mental health so this is why attending the scheduled meetings is a non-negotiable.

We have considered very carefully the amount of work set each day. All our children will have maths, English and reading tasks to complete with Foundation subjects spread out throughout the week which should be related to the curriculum planned for the spring term. However, if you find your child is completing the work set in a few hours then check that the work is completed properly and to a high standard as all this work will be returned to school and should reflect the child’s usual standard. If your child is struggling with the work set, then check they understand the task and try breaking it down into smaller chunks so it is less overwhelming. Try to work for 20-30 minutes and then have a short break. Younger children do not have the capacity to focus for more than 20 minutes so breaks are essential to aid their learning. However, in either instance, contact the school office and we will ask the class teacher to discuss your concerns at a suitable time. We appreciate teaching your child/children is not easy whilst you are juggling work etc. which is why we encourage you to communicate with school as soon as problems arise. Teaching staff have received years of training to do this job and it requires patience, skill and knowledge of the curriculum which is why you should not feel like you are failing your child if you need our help and advice – that’s what we are here for!

Home Learning can be found by following the links below:

Class 1: https://www.anson.staffs.sch.uk/blog/2021-01-08-10-29-29-class-1-home-learning

Class 2: <https://www.anson.staffs.sch.uk/blog/2021-01-08-12-22-32-class-2-home-learning>

Class 3: <https://www.anson.staffs.sch.uk/blog/2021-01-06-12-30-00-class-3-home-learning>

Class 4: <https://www.anson.staffs.sch.uk/blog/2021-01-08-08-20-43-class-4-home-learning>

**Key workers and Vulnerable Children**

Although school is closed for the majority of children, some children will be in school because of their parent/carers jobs and/or their personal status. We have been able to make this provision through the dedication of staff such as Miss Heath, Mrs Grant and Mrs Bater in Class 1; Mrs Sumner, Mrs Love in Class 2; Miss Vivash, Miss Humphries in Class 3; Miss Spennewyn, Mrs Chell in Class 4; Mrs Vines, Mrs Fenton working in the office; Mrs Petillo, Mr Harris cleaning and caretaking the school; Mrs Buckley, Mrs Gill catering in the kitchen which are the people that work tirelessly ensuring school is operational – Big thank you to all of them!

If you feel you qualify for this provision, then please visit the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

However, in the spirit of the lockdown, we ask if you use this provision only if there is no other adult available to be with the child as you can appreciate we have limited capacity being a small school and providing home learning for the rest of the school.

**Dates for the Diary**

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| **Monday 11th January 2021**  | **School closed**  |
| **Tuesday 12th January 2021** | **Individual Photographs – postponed**[**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-01-12-individual-school-photographs**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-01-12-individual-school-photographs) |
| **Friday 15th January 2021** | **Deadline for Reception applications**[**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-01-15-deadline-for-primary-school-applications-1**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-01-15-deadline-for-primary-school-applications-1) |
| **Tuesday 9th February 2021** | **Parents Evening – Postponed** [**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-02-09-virtual-parents-evening**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-02-09-virtual-parents-evening) |
| **Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2021** | **Half Term Holidays**[**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-02-15-half-term-holiday**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-02-15-half-term-holiday) |
| **Thursday 4th March 2021** | **World Book Day**[**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-03-05-world-book-day-march-4th-2021**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-03-05-world-book-day-march-4th-2021) |
| **Friday 19th March 2021** | **Red Nose Day**[**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-03-19-comic-relief-red-nose-day**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-03-19-comic-relief-red-nose-day) |
| **Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April 2021**  | **Easter Holidays**[**https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-04-02-easter-holidays-3**](https://anson.staffs.sch.uk/events/2021-04-02-easter-holidays-3) |

I hope that you can enjoy this weekend and put the school books away. Enjoy a breath of fresh air and recharge your batteries. You’ve all done so well with coping with the shock of this week, so relax – you deserve it, and I look forward to seeing you all next week either in person or on a Google Meet.

Best wishes and stay safe

Nicola Jarrett

Headteacher