



## Arnold Mill Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, that was not the start to the year that we hoped for! It was lovely to see the children on the first day back, but very tricky to then close school, for the majority of pupils, the following day.

We have been working really hard to organise school and online learning. To make sure that we care for as many critical worker children as we can, every teacher is now in school teaching their own class. Staff are in school every day ensuring that school is open for those who can't be taught at home. The new home learning expectations are for normal curriculum lessons to continue as near as we can. Therefore, Teams accounts are up and ready to go. We have had a few teething problems but the vast majority of children are now able to access these accounts at home. There are a couple of tutorials on our website <https://www.arnoldmillprimary.co.uk/video-resource-library/> If you need support please email your class teacher directly. Email addresses are listed at the bottom of this letter.

We have had a significant increase in requests for school places during this lockdown, which means classes are half-full. We have over 140 on our list. In order to keep risks low and in line with the Prime Minister's request to stay at home, we cannot accept any more children or our school may not be safe.

I would like to thank you all for your support over this very tricky week. I know home learning is not easy, especially when many are also trying to work too. We aim to upload roughly 3-4 hours work a day, but understand if you can't always get your children to do it all straight away. The government has made it law that this work is set and, as it will benefit children's development, we do ask you try to encourage them to do it as best they can.

The government have confirmed that they will be reintroducing the national voucher scheme for children eligible for benefit related free school meals. We are still waiting to hear how this will be administered and apologise for the delay but it is out of our hands. Vouchers will be backdated to cover the whole of the current lockdown period.

We are here if you need any advice.

Take care,

Mrs Jackie Oldfield  
Head teacher

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