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Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following my letter on Tuesday, I'd like to thank you all for your support. Whilst we still have a high number of children registered for key worker places, the fact that most of these are part-time has helped enormously. We still have 157 children registered and therefore I would still urge parents who are able to keep their children at home to do so. The safest place for your child is at home and it also improves the safety of the whole school community.

I was sent an interesting read yesterday and whilst this does not correlate directly with my experience, there are certainly some parallels.



Parents, please don't take a school place just because you can | Coronavirus | The Guardian

Secondly, a third of my staff are off sick with Covid-19. I have no doubt they caught it from school in the last few days of term, which fittingly was the week my local authority was threatened ...

www.theguardian.com

Educational Provision

We have spent the past couple of days finalising our educational offer for the children at home and it's important that this, as closely as possible replicates the offer in school.

Given the high number of children, we are not able to operate a 'rota' system and, in order to keep in-school groups as small as possible, each teacher will retain responsibility for their own children. This means that they will be balancing the children in school whilst also providing remote learning during the day. For many of our teachers and pupils, next week will be their first experience of this so we do expect some teething problems – hopefully we can overcome these. We have just signed an agreement to double our bandwidth so hopefully we won't have any issues with our broadband capacity!

As per our Remote Learning Protocol, you can expect a daily session for Maths, English and/or Phonics. This will be a mixture of 'live sessions' with the class teacher and pre-recorded videos. Below are the proposed 'live' teaching times where your child will need access to screen. If there is a clash, i.e. you have a child in Year 2 and 3 but only have one laptop/device, then please let us know ASAP.



Planned 'live' teaching times

9.00-9.30	Year 5 Year 1 (9.15 – 9.30)
9.35 -10.05	Year 2 Year 3
10.10 - 10.40	Year 4 Year 6

10.45 – 11.15	Year 5
11.20 – 11.50	Year 2 Year 3
11.55.- 12.25	Year 4 Year 6
1.30 - 1.45	Reception

A timetable will be sent to you tomorrow by your child's class teacher. There is obviously flexibility when you complete the pre-recorded work but this timetable will closely reflect what will be happening in school. We understand that each family's circumstances are different so please feel free to deviate from this if needed; there is no pressure to complete everything we are setting.

We're also lucky enough to have a number of specialist teachers providing home-learning tasks for you to complete at home. Laura Andrews will be providing two weekly dance videos (one for KS1 and one for KS2); Mrs C Smith will be setting art projects for different year groups each week; Mr Miles and Mrs Brookes will be providing music/singing videos as well. There will also be Collective Worship provided by Rev'd Estella, staff from the Diocese of Canterbury and myself.

Home-Learning Workbooks

In order to further support the learning at home, we have purchased some home-learning workbooks for every child in the school. These are not intended to replace lessons but act as a supplement, an extra - if parents wish to use them. I will be on the school playground both tomorrow and Monday afternoon and these packs can be collected between 2pm and 3.30pm. If you are not able to collect during these times, they can be collected from the school office anytime from Tuesday morning.



Children in school will be given these to bring home tomorrow.

Reading Books

I really cannot stress enough how important it is, for our younger children especially, to keep reading. Could we ask that, when Reception and KS1 parents collect their child's workbooks, you return any school reading books you may have at home along with their child's reading record. We will then collate more reading books for you to use at home and further details will come out about how/when these can be collected next week.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

From Monday, we are slightly changing the times that children should be dropped-off in the mornings and collected at the end of the day. Children should arrive at school between 8.40am and 8.55am and can be collected between 3pm and 3.15pm.

Yours sincerely,

James Tibbles
Headteacher