



Tuesday 26th January 2021

Dear parents/ carers,

Testing

As you will be aware, Lateral Flow testing for school staff is due to start this week and Elliston staff will be doing their part in the drive to control the spread of the Coronavirus. In the event of a positive result in school, we will be following the national guidance and isolating staff, their households and their 'bubbles' as appropriate. We are hoping the impact on the children in school is minimal and we have plans in place to ensure, where possible, every class remains open. If we do need to shut a class while waiting for confirmation of an infection in school, we will let you know by text on Sunday evening or Wednesday evening as these are the two set days for our testing. We are hoping with this information in mind, you can begin to consider possible scenarios for childcare. We are obviously hoping this is a last resort. Any questions, please do not hesitate to email the school office on office@ellistonprimary.co.uk.

Remote learning

Times are tough for us all at the moment. Whether you are sending your child to school as you need to work or whether you are safe at home but managing remote learning, we recognise that you all have your struggles. It's difficult to remain positive when the weather is so cold and the mornings and evenings are so dark too so it is even more important that we support each other and get through this together.

I just want to say well done to you all. Whatever your personal circumstances, we think you are doing a great job. I'm sure there are times when your children have stayed up late, not got dressed until lunch, played too much on their consoles and not finished all their school work. That's OK – we all have days like that! We know your children are safe and loved and cared for and that is your most important job at the moment and sometimes that takes all your energy.

In terms of remote learning, as with everything at Elliston, we have very high expectations. Your children deserve us to give them the very best at all times and we know we have a lot of lessons and tasks for children to do. All we ask is that you do your best; if your best is 30 minutes of daily reading that's fine. If your best is joining in every single lesson that is also fine.

We know there are circumstances that can make remote learning tricky at home. However, we will always encourage children to join in where they can and staff are always available should you have technical issues or a problem with the actual learning. Teachers can talk to children directly over the phone or via Teams if this is needed to clarify any questions/problems.

We may not be open to lots of our families physically but emotionally we are still here for you all. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you need anything at all, even if it is just a chat.

With love and best wishes to you all,

Mrs Patterson