



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you to all the parents who have contacted the school to say how grateful they are for all the work the teachers are doing in these challenging times, this has meant so much to the them. As you can imagine, even though we try and please everybody, sadly this is not always the case and teachers, being human, can sometimes reflect on a negative comment even though this may have come from only one person.

We really do understand how difficult home learning is, particularly when you are also trying to balance your own work. I have spoken to my fellow primary heads in the partnership and I would like to reassure you that the remote learning we are providing is in line with fellow partnership schools. Some practices are slightly different, but this seems to be dependent on the number of keyworkers each school has. We do have a large number of key worker children and, as you will have seen from my earlier letter this week, we have asked that children only come to school if essential.

As you may imagine, these are very difficult times for our class teachers as they are balancing teaching our Keyworker and vulnerable children alongside the remote learning for the remaining children. The majority of teachers, when at home, are also home schooling their own children. Many of our teachers have opted to keep their secondary children at home to reduce the number of contacts their families have, which in turn will reduce the risk of them contracting the virus and having to take time off work. This means that they too are balancing working with home learning. However, we have listened to your comments and teachers are, where possible, ensuring that the children have sight of them on a daily basis. Whether this be first thing in the morning to explain the daily lessons and expectations or, for the younger children, Storytime. Teachers will continue to support the children who usually have additional support in the classroom, through small group or 1:1 Google meet sessions, as well as having small group well-being sessions where children also have the opportunity to see their friends and still feel part of the school community.

Both the Department of Education and OFSTED have also stated that live lesson are not always the best option, as not all families are able (for reasons such as older children taking precedence on devices) to log in for live session and this could lead to some children missing out completely on lessons. Whereas when teaching is sent home via power point or direct from White Rose or The Oak academy, parents are able to fit this in around their work schedules. Using this approach means that we are ensuring all pupils, whether on-site or remotely, are able to access the best possible educational experiences. The asynchronous materials that we are using (for example from White Rose, The Oak Academy) have been designed specifically to be used in remote learning and 'they are high quality lessons taught by expert subject teachers' OFSTED 2021.

We will continue to monitor how the children are progressing and managing their work as well as listening to parent feedback and, when necessary, we will continue to adapt our practices accordingly. I hope this clarifies the situation for you.

Lastly, some wonderful news Mrs Allcock's daughter had a beautiful baby girl over the Christmas period, both mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations to them!!

The Prayer

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything
now with new eyes;
to discern and test the spirits that help
me read the signs of the times;
to relish the things that are yours and
communicate them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding
that you gave Ignatius.

Amen.

'Well Done'

*to the following pupils who received
special awards this week:*

Reception – Brooklyn, Sonny, Martha

Year 1 – Everybody was a Star

Year 2 – Leo, Olivia, Oscar

Year 3 – Martin, Aidan, Amelie

Year 4 – Hartley, Lola, Natalia

Year 5 – Ben, Bea, Adi

Year 6 – Ivan, Cameron, Pietro



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates for Spring Term	
Friday 15 th January	Deadline for 2020-21 Reception Applications
Tuesday 2 nd February	Reception and Year 6 Height & Weight checks
Friday 12 th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 22 nd February	Return to School