



Roose Community Primary School

Newsletter January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I know this is not the start we wanted for 2021, not for our school nor the rest of our community and the wider world. It seems we are at a critical point during this horrendous pandemic but at least this time, we have the hope of the vaccine roll-out across the UK over the coming few months. Some members of our Roose community may already have received their first dose of this. We hope you are able to stay positive with us, that things will improve before long and that the 2nd half of the year may see some normality in our lives.

Key worker and vulnerable bubbles

We would like to thank you all for your attitude towards our keyworker and vulnerable child bubbles. We have only been contacted by families who we feel need this support. Each child who has been allocated a place has received one through a discussion we had as a whole teaching staff. We focused on their eligibility, following the criteria of critical workers (set out by the government) and through our own knowledge of our families and their vulnerability. We thank people for not applying if they can arrange childcare through their own child care bubble or by negotiating and changing hours at work etc. We understand this is a very difficult time for families, especially with the additional financial pressures that January inevitably brings after Christmas.

I would like to thank school staff who are also in similar positions, trying to balance their own childcare, work arrangements and family life, for being willing to support our keyworker and vulnerable bubbles. It is an anxious time for people who work in schools, especially after what we have experienced as a community and I'm sure you will join me in thanking our staff and governors, who continue to go above and beyond expectation.

School meals

We are currently in discussion with Orian, our school meal provider, to see if we will be able to offer meals to our keyworker and vulnerable children and also what provision there will be for children who are entitled to Free School Meals. We will contact the relevant families when we have more information and hope to know more at the beginning of next week. Until then, if your child is attending school, please can you provide a packed lunch. If you are in need, we can offer families vouchers for the Foodbank in Barrow and please remember, we have our Community Kitchen at Roosegate.

Home-learning

I am sure you will have heard about lots of schools approaching home learning in a variety of different ways. The vast majority of primary schools in our area are providing a similar level of remote learning to ourselves; using Apps like Seesaw, class dojo or providing work-packs for collection.

Last term, we spent a vast amount of time as staff, discussing the pros and cons of the different options available to us and feel we have chosen the best method to suit our families, children and school. Our aim is to provide you with appropriate home learning that allows you the flexibility to do the 8000 other things you need to do that day, or to allow you to make the most of the sunshine and come back and finish the work later. We understand that you will be working from home, trying to home-school children, which is why we have opted for a flexible yet supportive and interactive approach.



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We ask that you do engage with the work and the Seesaw App. It is a fantastic way for the children to feel connected and involved still with their class and their teacher. It is important that your child keeps up with their learning BUT we also ask that you do not put too much pressure on your families, there are no right or wrong answers of how you should structure your day. Every household is different and we will support you and your family as best we can and this will be different for every family in our care. If you need help, please ask your teacher via the App or phone the office. Mrs Mackie is working miracles, providing IT assistance to everyone!

Please also bear in mind that staff at Roose are also in the same position as you. They are juggling working at school on a rota, working from home to support you with home-learning and also with home schooling their own families. So if you do not get a response to a query straight away they are more than likely changing a nappy, supporting their own children's learning or stopping siblings arguing. My own children were dancing the conga when I left for work this morning; my husband is self-employed and therefore, providing home-learning for them.

Using Seesaw, staff can set tasks and then add comments, post videos etc daily. This supports you and means the children are getting encouragement and regular feedback from staff. We aim to provide around 3 hours home-learning a day. Sometimes this may be slightly more or less. There will be a daily English and maths activity, as I explained in the home-learning letter sent on Tuesday. There will also be another activity and sometimes shorter spelling, times table, mental maths activities too. Work will be sent home in the afternoon/evening ready for the next day so if you want to prepare and look up what you are doing, you can.

Support for families

There are a number of different County Council agencies and charities offering a range of support at the moment, practically, financially and for mental health. Please don't struggle on, if you are finding things hard, let us know by contacting myself at head@roose.cumbria.sch.uk or your child's teacher, via Seesaw. We are here and happy to help. The school office and phones will not be manned for the full school day so if you need to phone and speak to someone, mornings are best. Messenger and emails will be picked up at other times.

Thank you

As always, thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement during these difficult times.

Best wishes,

Jenny Redhead
Acting head teacher