

Springfield Primary Academy

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Principal: Mr A Willett



Care, Collaboration, Challenge

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parent

I am writing, once again, to ask for your support. This week we have had up to 146 of our children in school. That's 44% of the children on roll. Due to these numbers, we are now operating 9 bubbles. Though there are fewer children in school, this still takes up a lot of our staff, due to bubbles having to be kept separate. Staff are also supporting those children that are having to learn from home. This includes planning and setting the work, uploading it to Class Dojo, supporting with problems in accessing the work, giving feedback to work uploaded and organising paper copies of work for those that need it. We have had a fantastic response from our children, which means that teaching staff are being sent up to 100 pieces of work a day for them to mark. Parents at home are doing a brilliant job and the children are producing some wonderful pieces of work. As always, we want to support everyone to the best of our ability. However, the amount of children in school is putting a strain on what we are able to do for our children at home.

If you or your partner are a key worker, but one of you is at home because you do not work, or you have been furloughed, I urge you not to send your child to school. The Department for Education guidance states, 'Parents and carers that are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.' I am still very concerned that with the number of children coming into school this week, the amount of contact may not be reduced to the extent that we need it to be.

Thank you to those parents last week that reduced their hours to just those that were needed.

Remote learning is now in full swing. Along with this letter, I will also send out a remote learning information document, outlining our remote learning offer. Please read this carefully, as it sets out how we deliver remote learning. All of the work is uploaded onto Class Dojo. Remember, when you are accessing work for your child, you must be on your child's account, not the parent account.

Some parents have questioned why we are not providing live online lessons. With the numbers that we currently have in school, that is not possible. The recorded sessions from Oak Academy and White Rose Maths very clearly explain the work to be done. I do understand that the children like to see their own teacher, so where possible and appropriate, teachers are recording short video clips of things like phonics lessons and story time.

As we get better at it, our remote learning will grow. Our next step is to introduce a short live session with your child's class teacher, to check on how things are going. We will not be able to do this through Class Dojo, so are looking at using Microsoft Teams, which works similar to Zoom. Look out for more information about this soon.

There has been lots in the news about the quality of food parcels for free school meals children. We have sent out a small number of food parcels this week, which have been met very positively. As soon as it is available, however, we will move over to the national voucher scheme.

Finally, could I remind you that if you are on the school site you must wear your mask correctly and continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

Once again, thank you for your support during this difficult time. If there is anything that you feel you need, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours faithfully

A. Willett