



# St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

## February Half-Term Newsletter 2021

Dear Parents,

Well, this wasn't the start to the new year we all had envisaged, but we are at the end of the first half term and hopefully, the end of this lockdown is in sight.

School has been 'closed' - but open to the children of critical workers / vulnerable children. I know from some conversations with parents, and feedback from the remote learning survey, that this has been a tough 6 weeks—for everyone! We have tried to keep the numbers to a minimum in school, in order to protect our staff and school community, but we do seem to have had far more requests for places than we anticipated. PLEASE remain vigilant and keep to the government rules. It appears that some children are 'visiting' other children during the day or even going round for parties / social visits.

I **urge** you to think about the wider impact this may have on our community, especially if you are then sending your child into school to mix with over 120 people on a daily basis.

I want to publicly thank our amazing staff that work diligently every day to educate the children at school and at home, and for doing all they can to keep them safe.

Lastly, a final HUGE thank you to our children. The resilience they have shown this half-term has been amazing!

As you know, school needs to still monitor any new COVID-19 cases from our community over the half-term break.

If any child / staff member should test positive over the school holiday, school will respond according to government guidance and work with Public Health. We would initially inform any year groups affected on ParentApp – it is **crucial** that all parents have access to the app to ensure timely communication from school.

To inform the school of a Coronavirus case in your family over the holiday please email:

**head@st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk**

Or ring the school mobile and leave a message on: **07393 914673**

Many thanks,

Miss Taylor

## Remote Learning Survey—outcomes.

Thank you to those parents who completed the online survey regarding home learning during this lockdown. We had 127 responses.

Here is a summary of the findings:

- ⇒ 127 responses from 403 children on roll.
- ⇒ 96% of responses said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the school's remote learning arrangements.
- ⇒ Only 2 responses thought the work provided was 'not enough'.
- ⇒ Only 1 response thought the work set was 'not clear at all'.
- ⇒ The frequency of feedback from teachers was a real strength— 99% felt it was either very frequently or quite frequently responded to.
- ⇒ A third of responses felt their child could not independently access the school work.
- ⇒ 84% of responses felt either very confident or quite confident with supporting your child's learning at home.
- ⇒ In response to the question, 'How could we better support the remote learning?', we had lots of positive affirmations and lots of suggestions—see the 'You said, we did' page following this summary for more details.
- ⇒ Over 50% of responses felt their child spent 3-4 hours per day on school work at the moment (the recommended government guidance amount).
- ⇒ 97% felt the communication from school had been clear.
- ⇒ 98% felt it was easy to connect with the school or individual teachers.

On the whole, our school community seems satisfied with our offer—some parents have been contacted individually to discuss their concerns or problems, which has helped us to understand further what the needs of our children & parents are.

## Remote Learning Survey—outcomes.

These are direct parental responses from the survey which summarise the majority of comments —some positives and some suggestions for improvement:

I think that the work that is being set is a sufficient amount and we have great feedback and contact with the teachers. We like the videos of the teachers running through the answers and talking through the work. I think everyone is doing the best they can.

Maybe one to ones with children if time allows this? My child is a quiet character amongst very big, loud characters in his group and does get upset when he's been unable to speak/speak loud enough. He feels very shy when talking on zoom in front of everyone too.

More things that can be completed online and then sent back would be better as I don't have a printer currently and I'm having to improvise on the sheets or get my mother to print and then drop off . But the teaching and learning is great and work is relevant and good .

Live lessons in addition to some recorded ones would be quite good. Especially if they can be engaged and they find it fun. Maybe such as art, who can do the best handwriting or phonics game? Or something that requires repetition to learn...

XXX cannot attend the zoom calls each day either as we are relying on a childcare support bubble so misses out a few days a week. Teacher videos and going through the task /lesson definitely makes a difference and so continue to do more of that.

Less screen work, not been good on my daughter's eyes.

Live lessons or calls so that the children can join in from home and message their friends.

Splitting the work into core and enrichment has helped us to prioritise learning activities. This has been a great improvement!

Maybe an individual chat with the teacher and pupil about a particular topic or piece of work. It could be difficult to do daily with so many children to contact individually but even once a week I think would be motivating for XXX.

So .. What has happened as a result of the survey?

Year 6 started to trial live 'Zoom' sessions called 'response to learning' every day. Then Y5 and Y4 have begun to introduce this into their daily teaching programme. The children are getting direct teaching from their class teacher following up the mornings Maths and English sessions. This is usually at around lunchtime, allowing the children to 'have a go' at the work set, and then come along to address misconceptions and ask for support.

These sessions have been very positively received and we hope will be rolled out across KS2 during the first week back after half term.

Our Reception and Year 1 parents & staff seemed to be more than happy with the daily Zoom registers and Friday celebration due to the children's ages and appropriateness of live 'guided teaching sessions' for that age group. You may see further changes to enhance the provision in the first week back after half term.

Thank you to ALL parents who responded!

**Some messages of support from the survey—written BY parents FOR parents!**

Keep at it, you're doing better than you think!

If it all gets too much- turn the laptop off, put on a coat and go for a walk together. (Even if it's around the block)

*We are only human and can only do our best. If that means things don't always get done it doesn't mean you have failed it means you have tired. As long as there is love and support then the children will get through this they have more perseverance than you think. Keep smiling and so will they.*

Not to put too much pressure on themselves

You can only do your best. If you're struggling, I would suggest to contact the school and explain your concerns/problems.

DO WHAT YOU CAN.

*This is only temporary, everything will be fine really soon*

DO AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, IT'S NOT WORTH UPSETTING YOURSELF OR YOUR CHILD OVER AND ASK SCHOOL FOR HELP.

*To not worry. And to do bits of work when you can*

It's ok to miss a task/day to take some time for you and your child to be a family.

*We're all in different boats but riding the same storm!*

Keep going!

Do your best. Your child will catch up once back in school.

Don't stress about having everything done.

You are doing your best.

Regarding remote learning, ask the school for help, as they are very helpful

Don't try to be perfect - do what you can. As long as you and your child are healthy, happy, clean and fed, that's what's most important at the moment.

Take a deep breath and remember you're their parent before their teacher. Yours and your child's emotional well-being is the most important part of any day. Be kind to yourself, be honest with your struggle and ask for help, there's no shame in it after all we only want the best for our children.

Do what you can! Don't punish or stress yourself that you are not doing enough! Your relationship with your child and mental health is far more important

It's challenging, I'm certainly not cut out to be a teacher so not on your own!

The teachers have been wonderful with us if we have ever had a problem or needed support so if you need help just ask.

It is ok to have days off at the minute the days are so repetitive it's extremely hard to stay focused 24/7. Don't feel guilty for having a duvet day and some rest!

**Do your best!**

Stop for today. Start again tomorrow.

Keep smiling, There's an end in sight :-)

Do what you can! And enjoy doing things you wouldn't do if you weren't at home.

## And finally—Signs of Spring

The children planted primroses with Mrs. Bartlett last term—look at how they are growing and making the school look so colourful.

A sign of new life and hope to come.

