

Friday 15th January

Dear Parents/carers and Children

First and most importantly I do hope you are all safe and well; that really is the most crucial thing in these most uncertain times.

It has been a long and difficult two weeks for us all, whether at work, school or juggling working from home with home schooling. I share your frustrations, concerns and worries.

However here we are and we must try and make the best of the situation. The majority of children are engaging well on Google Classroom and even though we have experienced some teething issues it appears to be going well. We are having a staff meeting this afternoon to address some issues that have arisen. If you have not yet logged in please do so as soon as possible and if you are having difficulties please get in touch.

Home schooling is difficult for us all but I urge you not to get stressed or worried. We have to pitch the work to the 'middle' so some children may find some tasks too hard and some too easy so please just do all you can. In addition children will need help with the work and will not be able to work independently on all tasks; again I urge you to do what you can. Some days you may need to just scrap it and put everyone's mental health and wellbeing first.

I know some children are able to return work electronically and some are working in books or worksheets. Either is fine and we welcome the work (technical issues aside). In addition please remember you can supplement the work with external resources; BBC and Oak Academy to name but two.

Critical Worker places in school are now full and unlike the first lockdown I am afraid we cannot be flexible with days and have locked allocations. I can only apologise but we are limited in numbers due to health and safety. We have already seen a 'bubble burst' this week with a positive case in Year 2 and numbers in the locality are rising rapidly; particularly in young children. ***I urge you to only use the place if you have no other option. If you can work from home safely with your child, that is the best option for everyone's safety.***

As ever we are here for you and can help. If you need us the answer machine and emails will always be responded to. In addition if you hear of a family that may need help, please let me know.

Best wishes
Mark Mountcastle