

Dear Parents,

Some things Covid-19 cannot influence, and one of those is how quickly the term is flying by! Another is the excitement and enthusiasm shown by the children in their learning. There is a real buzz around the school as the children are enjoying the challenges of their new tasks. The school day is very full for them all, with lessons packed in to ensure learning time is maximised within the staggered day. I expect we will all be ready for a break at half term.

I hope you have noted the message regarding Parent Consultation Meetings sent earlier this week. We do understand that you all have work commitments, but we are still required to 'meet' under the current restrictions, and to conduct face-to-face meetings is not sensible at this time. Early next week you will receive an email from your child's class teacher inviting you to a Google Meet. The email will be sent from a Class email address which is solely for the purpose of these meetings. Please note that these addresses will not be monitored; should you need to contact the teacher for any reason, then please continue to do so via the Office email address as is our practice. (The VLE is for your children to contact the teacher via the Chatroom, and should not be used by parents to raise questions.) The meetings will last ten minutes and will enable virtual visual conversations as to how your child is settling into their new classes and their learning; things you can do to support; and any points you would like to share with the teacher. I know that the staff are looking forward to meeting with you, albeit virtually. Thank you for your co-operation with this new system.

The Department for Education require all schools to have contingency plans in place for remote learning should a child or a class need to self-isolate due to the pandemic. I am sure you will have read in the press contrasting stories as to the requirements for schools. For clarification – if your child is unwell then they will not be set work for the time they are away from school. This has always been the case, as an unwell child needs to become well so that they are able to return to school. However, if they are well but at home due to following the Government guidance for Covid-19 then the school will set work for your child. It is a Government expectation that your child will complete the work set and bring it into school on their return, when it will be marked. This work is not optional as it is equivalent to being in class.

Thank you to all parents who completed the Technology Survey. We have analysed the returns for this and used that information to put in place an education offer which is as equitable to all children as possible, and meets the requirements as directed from the Department for Education. Our offer is outlined below:

For an individual child:

In addition to the usual weekly reading, spellings and tables, the class teacher will draw up learning activities in advance each week for:

- Maths – which may comprise links to MyMaths activities linked with the learning for the coming week; TT Rock Stars for the relevant tables; and work from the White Rose home learning link (the resources for which will be placed on the VLE, and made live when needed).
- English – which may comprise a short text or picture to which is linked a range of different writing activities; and possibly some Grammar activities.
- Foundation subjects - linked activities to the topics to be taught in class; eg. a home science investigation linked to the topic, History/Geography research or writing.

This sheet will be e-mailed to you for your child when required. The completed work should be brought into school on your child's return to school.

For a whole class:

Should the class have to self-isolate due to close contact with a child or member of staff who has tested positive then the actions would be as follows:

- Activities will be posted onto the VLE for all subjects of the day during each school day of the isolation period.
- Modelled pieces of work needed to allow the learning to progress will be included – these may well include audio files to support the children, which would be sent in messages.
- Reading journal activities as appropriate, as the children will have their journal in their bag.
- Work should not require sheets to be printed at home as the children will have their homework books at home in which to complete these activities.

Staff would not be expected to communicate with the class in the chat rooms as we did during lockdown in terms of general chat, but will answer specific learning linked questions when time allows. All work completed during the isolation period will be marked and assessed accordingly – either on-line or on the return to school.

Please note that the Department for Education are clear that the remote learning should be in relation to the children's age, stage of development and learning needs, and that schools should try to avoid making significant demands for parents' help and support. As you can imagine this is quite a challenge given the ages of our children! So far, we have managed to keep safe - and long may that continue – but we have clear plans in place so that the children are able to keep moving forward with their learning in the event of having to do so from home. According to the new Tier approach, Primary schools are only affected at Tier 4 when we would be in national lockdown as in March, April and May. We hope that this will not be the case!

As you will have seen from the playground, the works are progressing on the installation of the all-weather running track. The weather has not helped, but we are pleased with the progress to date. Work is estimated to continue for the next two weeks, but will be weather permitting.

Please can I remind all parents that adults must maintain the recommended two metres social distance on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times. Children who are waiting with you for siblings to start or finish their day must stay by you and not be mixing with other adults. I appreciate that this can be challenging, but it is important to support the work we are doing in school to try our best to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for your co-operation with this. I would like to add that although the recommendation is that face coverings are not currently required out-doors, parents are welcome to wear one on the playground if they feel more comfortable doing so.

For adults who do need to come into school, we have a protocol document for visitors during these times, which I attach to this message. Please do take a moment to read this should you need to come into the building to reception at any time. Thank you. We now also have a QR scan code in the entrance hall for all visitors' convenience.

I do hope you have a good weekend – hopefully drier than the last one. It is sometimes hard as adults to feel optimistic in these challenging times, but the excitement and positivity of the children is an inspiration to us all.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher

Protocols for visitors to the school during the Covid-19 restrictions

During these challenging times the school is unable to welcome visitors as we have done in the past. We are all doing all we can to keep children, staff and you as a visitor as safe as we can. To help minimise the risk from Covid-19 we would ask that you read and follow these guidelines in addition to those normally in place.

- All visitors to the school should wear a face mask in the entrance reception area and when interacting with staff on arrival.
- Sanitiser should be applied before and after sharing papers or goods with the school staff.
- Only visitors essential to the learning of the children or the maintenance of the building are permitted beyond reception into the school buildings at this time.
- Visitors who do enter the school are required to leave current contact details to allow us to track and trace, should there be a need. These details will be destroyed after two weeks in line with Government guidelines.
- Face masks must be worn by visitors to the school in the corridors and communal areas, and in classrooms if it is essential you enter a teaching room.
- If you are attending an agreed socially distanced meeting in the school hall, then you may be advised that masks may be removed, as the ventilation and distancing reduces risk.
- Visitors should avoid touching doors or any other surface not essential to their business to minimise the risk of transmission of contagion.
- Visitors who have experienced Covid-19 like symptoms in the previous 24 hours are kindly asked to reschedule their visit by telephoning the office on 01296 668324
- Visitors who exhibit Covid-19 symptoms, or who have a positive test for coronavirus within 72 hours of their visit to the school, must inform the school office immediately.
- In the unlikely event of an emergency, visitors are asked to follow the instructions as outlined on the visitor pass, and remain at least 2m away from the children at all times.

We thank you for your assistance and understanding and for following these actions. *Should a visitor to the school not comply with these protocols then the school reserves the right to ask them to leave the premises as they would be placing the children and staff at increased risk.*