

Parent Letter 15/01/21

We have now completed two weeks under the new guidance and however challenging it has been, we are very pleased with how it is working so far. Once again, we are so grateful for the supportive way you have approached this and I have no doubt this is a key factor in everybody's continued well-being. The current arrangements will stay in place but as always we will keep them under review to ensure the best for the children.

Numbers are manageable in school but we do still need to be stringent on only identified vulnerable pupils and children of key workers attending to keep our numbers within safe guidelines.

With regard to home learning, we have reviewed a vast range of documents and research to shape our provision. I also know from analysing the provision of other schools it is clear that every process has strengths and weaknesses so we are keen to keep to our principles:

1. Parents are partners in the learning
2. Simplicity aids accessibility, clarity and access
3. We will keep open the channels for interaction through dojo
4. Assessment and feedback is provided through this process
5. The curriculum is matched to the in school provision with the same variety of tasks where possible integrating digital and non-digital tasks

The process is under constant review and we are always looking for opportunities to augment our provision. The use of class dojo is critical so please ensure you use this regularly. All teachers are currently teaching in school each day but are also available via the dojo to answer any questions within the working day.

To help us plan for the next half term and beyond, we will be aiming to check how many children have accessed the learning by the half way point of this half term next week.

Don't forget we are also able to provide paper packs for collection or delivery if you are unable to leave the house. We also have adapted packs for those who require them.

Once again, I would like to remind you that home learning is a challenge for us all so please just do your best and make it fit to your patterns of home life.

As with the last lockdown, on full return we will plan our curriculum to ensure the appropriate gaps are plugged to continue to build on your child's development.

We have been working diligently to make the allocation to parents in receipt of free school meals work despite the chopping and changing of government policy – this has changed almost daily this week. We believe we have a workable process going forward but this is mainly down to the very hard work of Mr Chilvers so a big thanks to him.

With schools in the media so much now, it is easy to panic at the sensationalism of the news but as I always say – we are all trying to do our best in the most challenging of circumstances and if we are all pleasant in our interaction then we are most likely to get the best result.

Dr Jones