

# Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new week, I thank you once again for your support. We now know for certain that we will not be opening for some time yet so we must stay strong and work together. Please encourage each other because we know that in every home there will be many conflicting demands. You are doing a brilliant job in protecting your child's wellbeing and education.

## Critical Worker Places

We have a very high number of children needing places in school. The system is designed so that those on the front line are able to go to work and keep vital services running during the pandemic. The safest place for pupils is at home so please do not book places if your child can be cared for at home.

## Lateral Flow Testing

Last week we received our Lateral Flow Tests so school staff are able to self-test every three days. This helps us to protect the pupils who are in school at the moment.

## Home Learning Packs

We are creating packs with brand new books for after the half term break. As soon as these are ready, we will send you a text so that you can collect your pack. If you are self-isolating, we will arrange for the pack to be delivered to you. You will doubtless know that schools run on very tight budgets so please do not lose the resources! We will need everything back once the school reopens.

## Live or Recorded - Which lessons are the best?

Be careful what you wish for! Live lessons, in real-time, are very difficult for families with more than one child because you would need to sit alongside your child. Live lessons are not recorded so if you miss the lesson, you miss the learning. There is no facility to pause or repeat the instructions. Unless you have gold-standard broadband and limitless devices, you would have difficulty streaming two or more lessons at the same time whilst making your own work Zooms etc. When we designed our remote learning package, we opted for Seesaw because we knew that every child must be able to access the learning and that many families need to timetable the day to accommodate adult work demands. Seesaw enables equal access for all pupils.

## Parent Advocates

We have listened to the many helpful suggestions from this group of parents who bring your views to the table. This week, we heard that above all, your children love to see their teachers on Seesaw so we are increasing teacher presence on the platform.

## Wellbeing

This week we will be increasing our focus on wellbeing. Mrs Talbot will be posting a video with some ideas for you to use with your children. We know how hard this lockdown is proving so we want to do everything possible to help. Many children will be feeling anxious and I know that you will be talking to them about the pandemic and about how they feel when school is closed. Some may be worried about returning to school and this is perfectly natural. We have lots of resources and many trained staff who can help or give advice if you are worried about your child so please get in touch.

## Routines

Try to start the week with the teacher Zoom on Monday, and join us for Collective Worship every Tuesday. We have listened to your feedback and we are making slight changes to the formats to help to motivate your child to learn at home. Try to stick to the pattern of the school day as far as possible: in times of uncertainty children need routines. They thrive on the guidance that comes from you and they are reassured by your loving and steady presence.

## Communication

Thank you for coping with the stream of communications from school. Teachers and teaching assistants are working hard to stay in touch with children because we know that this is a vital part of the child's learning. As we have limited phone lines, some of these calls may show as No Caller ID.

The days are lengthening and there are signs of spring. We are getting closer to the time when the school will be noisy and 'normal' once more, so please keep going... Your hard work and resilience is protecting the precious gift of education.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Galloway