



Thursday 14th January 2021

Hello everyone!

Week 2

A difficult week at EP with three in-school bubbles (Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6) closed due to positive cases; we have had full support from public health who agree the cases are unrelated and there is no suggestion that school is the source of infection. Our bubble system is working well, however, as I was teaching Year 6 on Friday I am now isolating too! Poor Susie Yaffe, our Nursery teacher, is very poorly; Bethan, our teaching assistant in Year 1 is also unwell. Our love and best wishes to them both and anyone else currently affected.

It is a stark reminder of just how virulent this current wave of infection is. Prevalence remains very high in our postcode area. Please follow the rules! Resist the need to queue for a coffee on Fortress Road! Don't meet up on the Heath! If we can all just hunker down for a few more weeks we stand a far greater chance of re-opening after half term. Camden Council guidance here

https://issuu.com/camdenmagazine/docs/cnj_covid-19_insert_14_jan_-_issue_43

We are grateful to our friends at Acland Burghley for continuing to include us in their staff asymptomatic testing programme. All EP staff have been at least twice now and all is well with those in school. I am so grateful for their confidence and determination.

On a positive note, we get Tania back tomorrow (she has been isolating due to a family member being positive) and our EYFS bubble return. Hurray! I return on Tuesday 19th along with Years 1 and 6 bubbles.

Stuck at home, I have loved gate-crashing 9am and 3pm zoom sessions in each class. It has been so lovely to see the children and to see how that EP spirit is still alive and well. Children attending these sessions (on time!) and **turning in** work is vital. Without this, teachers have no 'proof' of engagement nor are they able to help you or your child!! If you don't already, do check your child's daily productivity; don't just take 'I did it'.

Sitting in with class zooms, I was struck by how the children are learning all sorts of new IT skills and etiquette (aren't we all); problem solving to get round teachers' IT gaffs and – perhaps most importantly – learning independence. The whole idea of our Loom lessons is that we will do the teaching – this time we are not asking you to! The videos can be paused and re-played. Younger children may of course need support but as parents in these classes know, there is so much small group and 1:1 work going on.

Farewell and thank you

Farewell to Gemma Stansfield and Alex Bolland. They are our two much-loved student teachers who, despite the university postponing their teaching practice, have been in school running in-school provision for Year 3 and Year 5 which has been a fantastic support to us. We very much hope they will be back - with us all - to do their teaching practice after half term.

Parents' Evening – new date

We will hold this mid-year Parents' Evening on **Google Meet**. We've chosen this as everyone now has a google account (your child's) and so it is easy to book - direct with the teacher - and attend. Appointment will be available **from 4-7pm on Wednesday February 3rd and alternatives during the 3rd and 4th**. We will open booking next Thursday 21st January. Look out for guidance on how to book – and attend!



Critical worker places

We continue with our message that, we'd ask you to only request critical worker places in school if there is ***no suitable option at home***.

Although there is no priority ranking within the very extensive list, we see a priority for two parents /one lone parent working **outside the home** in critical worker roles such as education and health. Please do not feel you cannot ask; it is not our intention to be unsupportive. The intention is to keep mixing and movement of people to a minimum - as per the national guidance - and for me to balance supporting children, parents and staff in managing risk. We have over 50 children in school; remember this includes many pupils in school who meet the other government criteria.

Work-books

Remember we have a collection of A4 books if you would like one for home school. We have plain paper for Early Years, half lined, half plain for Year 1 and full page alternate lined and plain for Year 2 up. If you would like one – **free** – call in! It will a nice excuse to see you – we miss you!

Star of the week

Congratulations to you all on another week. Teachers will continue, in the absence of Golden Book assembly, to highlight children who have done particularly well.

Year 6 Elektra – for your 100% positive participation and engagement, lifting everyone's spirits especially Miss Mac!

Year 5 Selina – Mr G enjoys and appreciates the messages you add to your - always excellent - work

Year 4 - Gracie for a high standard of work, your fantastic descriptive writing and general punctuality and hard work!

Year 3 Oscar – a great week and a particular shout out for the earthquake explanation video.

Year 2 Daisy - for your fantastic fact file on the River Volga!

Year 1 Valentina - well done for working hard on every piece of work and always being ready to join in with discussions on zoom!

Reception Dylan - for your engagement and the quality of the work you are handing in. Sophie loved your picture of your favourite character from The Three Little Pigs!

Nursery Elsie - for a great week's work . Team Early Years especially like your seasons picture! See above.

I'm not offering to home-deliver chocolate this time as wouldn't be within the guidance – but if you're passing when exercising, do call in and collect something!

Jazzing it up!

As a staff, we are looking for ideas to refresh and energise the home learning routine. We start tomorrow with sharing FREE access to the new Michael Morpurgo/RSC readings of classic Shakespeare tales. Tomorrow will be **Romeo and Juliet**. You should all get a link in your classroom (Years 2-6). Watch LIVE at 11am (teachers will adjust timetable accordingly) or (we think) you can catch up later. We are excited that on 22nd it is to be The Tempest. Will it be as good as Year 5's production?! Look out for some other exciting extras coming up!

With love and best wishes to you and all your family.

Kate Ford

