

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Hello everyone!

### **Week 1**

Here we go again and wow! **On Day 1 we had 99% of EP on line at 9am!** Those who weren't, were contacted and things were sorted. This is in large part due to staff working all weekend, notably Tania and Vicky setting up chromebooks and passwords. A huge thank you to them as no time has been wasted.

Thank you for all the positive feedback – I do agree that our offer - informed by all your useful feedback last time - is much tighter and slicker this time too!

Our remote learning policy is on our website but I think you are all aware of what the day looks like. Broadly:

- We expect every child to be at register at 9am. This supports you with routine and enables us to be aware of who is not engaging;
- Again at 3pm, there is a link to a live plenary and review of the day. This is as important. We do understand that some of you juggling children and devices might not make both!
- Teachers will set out a clear expectation and plan for the day at 9am and much of the teaching will be recorded live teaching;
- In addition, from Year 1 upwards, children will have a chance for a more discursive live group session with their teacher each week. Check you know when your child's is;
- There will be more 1:1 contact in Early Years;
- All children should have a phone call from a member of their class team to check everything is alright. Please do not wait for these calls but contact us if you have any concerns or issues! Remember it might say 'no caller ID'.

We still have a last few chromebooks we can lend out - please just ask!

**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 be a nice excuse to see you – we miss you!

If you do nothing else, three absolute winners will always be: sharing good books, family card and board games and some practical learning be that shared cooking or an experiment. And, for the juniors, this is THE perfect time to nail times tables so please do go to Times Tables Rock Stars each day.

I hope you are all managing some daily fresh air too, whilst observing the **vital physical distancing and staying only within your household**. This feels absolutely critical in we are to work together to get back to school as soon as possible and support our NHS.

### **A few bits of feedback to you**

As in school, we expect children to sit and listen properly and not be distracted by pets, other devices or by changing their screen background. We can help you retain discipline in this way!



One thing we have learnt, accepting that 'turning in' work on GC can be a challenge, is that if you download the Google Classroom App on your phone, it's easy to take photos and upload if it is a struggle to use the web-based classroom .

Do look for feedback! The app alerts you but if working from a PC you might miss it. Teachers really are taking the time to do this.

And bear with us. However much the shift to remote learning creates new IT learning opportunities, nothing replaces the teacher and that special relationship of knowing each child and knowing exactly when and how to differentiate work, and to step in and help – or not. For a school like ours which is so built on relationships it is really upsetting not to give this personalised support.

All our wonderful staff are able and willing to work and are so busy running their remote classrooms or in school supporting. We are grateful to our friends at Acland Burghley for now including us in their staff asymptomatic testing programme.

### **Critical worker places**

Given that this new national lockdown starts with the mandatory 'stay at home' message, we'd ask you to only request critical worker places in school if there is ***no suitable option at home***. We hope that the more structured and taught style this time enables your child to be more independent 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.

### **Janet**

If you catch sight of our lovely Janet Collins wish her happy birthday for yesterday. She reached a significant age and as such can claim her very well-deserved pension. She hasn't missed a day of work for as long as I can remember and is cheerfully in school now doing her bit for the children as are all our brilliant support staff team.

### **The Tempest**

Have you watched Year 5's filmed performance yet? It was posted in Tuesday's classroom. It is brilliant!

We can do this EP! We did it before. As the weeks go by we will, as last time, find shared projects to sustain and connect us. I'm currently looking for a good online virtual BINGO platform ...we can't miss our annual night! If anyone finds one – that allows a personal touch – please let me know.

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

