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Newsletter 19

Dear Parents and Carers

School Attendance Whilst the school remains open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children during the current lockdown, it is important that we continue to do our utmost to limit the number of children in school and therefore reduce social contacts. The attached letter from Anne Dellar, ODST CEO, reiterates that this is a trust-wide position.

Remote Learning Last Friday the government released its guidance for this period including the expectations in terms of remote learning. Children in Key Stage 1 (Class 1 and 2) should spend a minimum of 3 hours a day on their learning, rising to 4 hours a day for children in Key Stage 2 (Class 3, 4 and 5). This includes video lessons, time spent completing tasks and class calls.

Where possible, can you please submit your child's work to their teacher - you can photograph, scan, screenshot etc. This enables the teachers to assess the child's work, provide feedback and informs the planning of subsequent lessons. Your child's teacher will communicate the expectations for their age group on their class calls.

While it is important that we continue to provide children with a robust education during this period, I am fully aware of the strain that this can put on families. The above expectations are incredibly challenging for a variety of reasons: work commitments, children sharing devices, supporting older siblings with secondary work or caring for pre-school aged children – the list goes on! We know that you are all doing your very best for your children and we thank you for that. If there is anything that we can do to support you, then please do not hesitate to email or call.

Other noteworthy updates

- National assessments (KS1 and KS2 SATs, Phonics Screening Check etc.) will not take place this academic year. We will still be assessing children's progress and attainment and reporting this to you.

- Primary school staff will begin regular lateral flow testing in the week beginning Monday 25 January. There is no news as to when this might be extended to primary school pupils.

Parent Teacher Interviews These will take place on screen during the week beginning Monday 25 January. We will be in touch early next week with the details of how to book your appointments.

Reminder: safety on the school run Although we have fewer children attending school during the current lockdown, it is still important that we continue to park at Snells Hall and walk to school via the boardwalk. This is the safest route for children and also shows consideration to our neighbours.



Mr. J. Veness