

## Headteacher's Blog January 2021

### **Covid-19 Update**

Unfortunately, and at very short notice, we are back to similar lockdown arrangements to those in March. It is a rapidly changing picture, but the advice at the moment is for us to revert to the maximum bubble size of 15 for both groups (determined by available floor area). Currently, our younger bubble is full on some days and this may be the case too for the older bubble, once further key worker criteria have been checked. If the eligibility criteria or bubble sizes are changed, we will open up further pupil places.

Thank you for responding so quickly to Kathy, if you thought you were eligible for a place for your child/children, as this has enabled us to ensure appropriate staffing etc. promptly.

Thankfully, the vast majority of staff are able to undertake their usual roles, in line with our risk assessments. We will need to revert to sandwich based lunches, with KS2 bringing their own packed lunches. All eligible free school meals pupils will be catered for whether in school or not.

***Due to reverting to the lockdown bubble criteria, all pupils can now have lunch break 12-1pm. Therefore, Nursery pupils will not need to be collected until 12pm, if applicable.***

Mrs Amy Smith has joined us on her teacher training placement until February half term. She is based with the younger bubble, primarily with those in Y1 and Y2. It certainly is a challenging time to be trying to complete a PGCE course and we thank her for her resilience so far!

The School Office will only operate fully every morning. If you need to contact Kathy, please can you avoid 8.20-9am, as she is outside supervising pupil arrivals.

### **Remote Learning**

As previously, pupils at home will be provided with remote learning tasks. Across each week, all subjects will be provided for, with the national expectation of a minimum of 3 hours of daily work for all primary pupils in years 1 to 6. We have listened to feedback from experiences during the first lockdown, so effective strategies will continue and further improvements have been instigated.

Classwork should be available each day by 8am and we will let you know if we have any glitches. Please be aware that your child's teacher may be teaching in school all day, and although we are trying to timetable message catch-up time, this may not be possible very promptly.

Class teachers will communicate with pupils and families via the Tapestry app, School360, the PTA Facebook page and Messenger, as appropriate. Weekly contact will be made, as before, if we are not seeing interaction with activities and tasks. Please contact us if you need any assistance.

Since using Google Classroom has been successful with our Y5 and Y6 pupils, I will be working in school and remotely to support Y3 and Y4 pupils in moving to use this feature of the Google Drive (from tomorrow), as it allows for much more teacher/pupil interaction; live saving of work; easier use of support videos etc. Further information will follow for Earth Works pupils and hopefully they will enjoy this and be more independent in their learning.

Please collect any learning packs from Mrs Swinbank and Mrs Williams, if this applies to you - see their earlier messages.

### **Sats**

We are delighted that the Government has cancelled Year 6 Sats tests for this year, as with only some of our Year 6 pupils being able to access face-to-face learning, it certainly would not be fair to expect them to sit the same tests, nor helpful for pupil wellbeing. We will, of course, continue to provide learning which addresses the next steps of learning for all of our pupils, and which aims to reduce and gaps in attainment.

Kindest regards for a happier, healthy New Year,

Diane Lakey