

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 now full 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 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.

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!

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.

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, 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.

Kindest regards for a happier, healthy New Year,

Diane Lakey