



Monday 18th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you continue to be keeping well; both physically and mentally during lockdown v3. Calls to the school have been increasing as families settle into home learning. We are here to support you with absolutely anything, so please do call us – the phone lines are open 9am-3pm and we will always get back to anybody who leaves a message. You can also email the year group email addresses or the main office email address; these are all being monitored daily.

We have reached capacity in some of our bubbles. Please remember that if your child does not already have a place in school and you would like to request one, you will need to contact us and wait until confirmation comes through before sending your child into school. We will still be requesting simple ID (photo of an ID badge, a wage slip, links to websites etc) and a copy of rotas before allocating a place if there is space. We currently have 60 children attending across the week. We are having to carefully prioritise from now as if we increase too much, this will have a direct impact on teachers being able to deliver remote learning effectively. Remember the Government advice continues to be **'that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'** Cases and transmission rates in the Wool, Bovington and Lulworth area are continuing to rise significantly and we all need to do our part to bring these down; stay home, protect the NHS and save lives.

I hope you have all received your CGP work books and that these are supplementing the online learning and supporting children to work more independently. Any work completed on paper can be photographed and uploaded to your child's online learning platform and teachers will provide feedback. The answers are also at the back of each book if you wanted to mark together – we all learn best from our mistakes and this is a technique used in school often. The great Albert Einstein once said, "A person who never made a **mistake** never tried anything new." So, encourage those marvellous mistakes and talk through the processes and correct together.

Thank you to all of the parents that have emailed, phoned or messaged in to let us know the positives around online learning – each and every teacher would rather be in school with their children but it goes a long way to know that all of their hard work thinking about how they can make remote learning successful is reaping rewards. On that note, all teachers are legally entitled to PPA time (preparation, planning and assessment). This is a government directive that entitles all teachers to have 10% of their directed time away from their class – when in school parents will not be affected by this as we still deliver learning. During remote learning, teachers need the same time probably even more, so we have decided to give this weekly on a Friday afternoon. What does this mean for you? Work will still be set and you can still continue to upload. Teachers will not be giving feedback or responding to questions from 12pm every Friday. The team in school will continue to be here to help so if an emergency comes up on a Friday afternoon, please call us.

For those entitled to free school meals and whose children are not in school, we have been organising food parcels. The Government announced plans for registering for the national voucher

scheme on Friday 15th January, we actioned this immediately but await further instructions on the next step to getting these vouchers to families. In the meantime, we will continue to provide the food hampers so that children will receive a lunch each day. Despite the negativity around these in the press, we have found the ones provided to our families to be substantial for 5 lunches for each child. If you feel you are entitled to free school meals or your circumstances have changed due to lockdown, please go to the link below to see if you are eligible or contact us at school if you need help.

<https://bit.ly/3nZHw1O>

Finally, we have been posting lots of activities on our Facebook page just in case you want to try something different. We have also been signposting to advice and support that you may need. Don't forget the family home learning project on the 'History of Bovington' - all entries need to be emailed or dropped off at school by the 29th January. There will be a voucher as a prize for the best family entry.

Up and down the country in these unprecedented times, families are being brought together in a way that we thought we would never experience again. Life is being turned upside down on a daily basis, with everyone now isolated, home educating and juggling work and other family commitments. Life is full in a completely different way. Family dynamics are different the world over and what works in one household may not work in another, you know your children, your family and your lives best. As the infamous Russian psychologist Vygotsky suggested, parents/carers have always been their child's first educators. Do not compare yourself to any other family, do not be upset that your child's work is not as polished as other work being celebrated – this does not make you a failure. Be proud of your achievements as a family. Be proud that you have supported your children to complete their home learning. Congratulate yourself that you have managed another day. Thank you, mums, dads and children of Bovington!!

Stay safe and stay connected.

Sara White (Principal)