



Dear Parents and Carers,

21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

We are approaching the end of week three of this lockdown. I am sure that in some ways the time has flown and in other ways it will have seemed like a lifetime.

The staff have been really pleased with the work the children have been producing at home and that some children are even managing to go back and improve it. That's great to hear.

For those children who have been in school, they are completing the same work and I know that some staff have been able to share work of the children both in school and from home, which has been great to see.

For those children in school – on the days that they are **not** in school it is really important that they access the remote learning as it is progressive and if a day is missed out, it is missing out a stage of learning and this can cause an issue for the next day.

**eSchools** is certainly enabling us to give the children a more balanced curriculum this time and, to some extent, what they would have been doing in school.

We are exploring the possibility of how we can arrange for children to have a meeting together with their teacher. We have one platform in mind but have to check out the security of this first before letting you know how this will work.

There is now going to be a weekly French lesson from Ms Bruce (Lingotots) for all Key Stage 2 children. It looks fun and I am sure everyone will enjoy accessing that.

You may have heard in the news that Lateral Flow Testing is being rolled out for staff in primary schools. From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January all of the staff in our school will be able to test themselves twice a week before coming in to school. This test is for identifying those people who may be asymptomatic – that is they are carrying the virus but do not know it because they have no symptoms. This is another step in the right direction – it will help to break the chain of transmission and, of course, keep everyone as safe as possible in school.

We continue to use Twitter as a platform for sharing good learning news – the work children are completing at home and at school, good experiences they are having. It can give the children a boost to see each other and what they are doing. If you send us any messages from home, these will be retweeted.

For those parents whose children are coming in to school, can I remind you that the guidelines still must be followed. If your child or anyone in your household or support bubble has symptoms then that person must book a test and the whole household and support bubble must isolate until the result of the test is known. If this happens to you, please keep your child off and inform the school of this.

We have been notified by Durham County that there has been an increase in positive cases of Covid 19 in the Annfield Plain and South Moor areas. As a school we continue to work closely with Durham County Council and are following their advice around the best way to keep all our staff and children safe. All children wash their hands regularly at school and we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of regular 20 second handwashing in the home, particularly when children

leave for and arrive home from school. In addition to this, we would like to ask you to support us further by continuing to follow social distancing guidance when dropping off and collecting your children for home. If you do not have a dedicated childcare bubble, please do not ask other parents to pick up or drop off your children.

As the weekend approaches I hope you are able to have a bit of relaxation time with your family before we start again on Monday.

Take care and keep positive. We can get through this together. Don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do to support you, there will be someone here who can help.

Kay Hemmings  
Head Teacher



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