

7 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible few days we have had! All three classes are online and I hope that any technical glitches have now been ironed out. If not, please keep informing us! Thank you so much for all the positive encouragement and comments received so far – it makes such a difference.

I hope that you are enjoying the face-face sessions and feel that the structure of the days are working better. The original timings I sent out on Tuesday may now start to be tweaked by the different classes as equipment clashes seem to be sorting out. I know that Mr Petts has already sent out a new timetable schedule for his class, which other classes may also decide to do. If this is the case they will email you separately. If you still have an equipment clash, again please let me know.

This lockdown is very different to the last lockdown. There is now a very clear message that the children need to be doing their school work (whether at home or school) daily, as they are following their 'normal' school curriculum for this time in the year. Every lesson builds on the previous lesson, especially with maths and English. The reasoning behind this is to try to stop any more slippage in standards across the country. We have to keep detailed records of who is logging on/turning up etc and also look at what work they are producing and handing in. Please inform us beforehand if there is going to be a valid reason for your child not turning up for lessons (just as you would ordinarily if they were not in school), it will not be a problem! If we do not hear from you and your child doesn't log on or do their work then we are now obliged to follow this up, in case there are any safeguarding issues or if your household is struck with COVID etc.

Within google classroom there is a feature that enables parents to be sent a report through to their own emails as to whether their child has been doing their work or not. Class 3 parents should already have received an email to see if they want to sign up to this or not. This will also be rolled out to Class 2 parents in the near future. This will help you to leave your child to work independently, but also be safe in the knowledge that they are indeed working!

Any 'Critical Worker' or 'vulnerable' children are entitled to take up their place full time. Indeed, this is actively being encouraged by both the Government and Derbyshire County Council. If you decide to stick to part time, then the above tracking and monitoring rules applies for the days your children are at home with you. If they cannot do their work, for whatever reason, then they need to be in school.

I'm sorry that this email seems a bit heavy duty, but as I said above this lockdown is very different than the last one and the expectations are very different too.

As always, thank you so much with your support in these crazy times. Please do get in touch if you feel that there is anything that school can help you with to make home learning any easier.

Leonie