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Head of School Mrs S Sullivan

Date: 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the third week of 'lockdown' I wanted to write to thank you for supporting your children through this time. We are amazed at the engagement of the children on Seesaw and the feedback we have been getting is very positive. We know it is not ideal for everyone. If you are finding it difficult to access or print work, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the Family Liaison Officer Mrs Rich.

Home learning

Our staff are working incredibly hard to provide interesting and stimulating work in line with your child's curriculum. All our staff working from home are doing an incredible job, keeping up with the children on Seesaw, giving feedback, planning and producing lessons. We are using a variety of ways to provide learning including, the Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize, Purple Mash and teachers have recorded lessons for the children. This is particularly difficult as 10 out of our 15 teachers are also trying to home school their own children, when they are not in the school building and working from home.

Staff have posted nearly 7000 activities on Seesaw, this does not include work on Purple Mash or other platforms.

Live Lessons

Please see the letter from the school leadership team. We made a decision last lockdown that we would not ask teachers to provide 'live' lessons. We did reconsider this and decided against live lessons for a number of reasons. For example if you have more than one child, and only one device at home. Who gets to use it?

We have arranged five-minute 'face to face' teacher pupil catch up to provide the personal interaction some children need.

I know many of you are concerned for your children's social interaction with their friends. However, there are a variety of class Facebook groups or direct contact can be made with your child's friends. Last year some parents arranged this amongst their children's friends. This proved very successful.

Your continuing support and positive comments are what keeps us going, so please continue to email the office. If you have a question or a query, can I ask you to contact the school and do not use Social Media to express your points of view. It is very disheartening, when we read comments that we have not had the opportunity to address, especially when we need and value the support of our community at this difficult time.

Staff Testing

You may have seen in the media that school staff will soon be testing themselves twice a week. I have to inform you that this may have implications to our in school bubbles. This may include closing a year group bubble for up to ten days, if a member of staff tests positive. Anyone who has been in close contact will also have to 'self-isolate.' We have as many as 20 children in each classroom and therefore close contact is inevitable. The testing will be twice weekly and voluntary. Using the 'lateral flow test we are hopeful that most of the staff take up this offer.

Let us pray that our school community will soon all be back together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Sullivan". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Mrs Sullivan