

8th January 2021



January Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Usually in January newsletter I would say, 'welcome back to school', but we are once again thrown into the challenges of another National Lockdown so I will say, welcome back to our virtual school! A very happy New Year to everyone let us hope and pray that sometime this year we will return to normal life. I hope that you had a lovely Christmas break and that you managed to spend some time with family and friends before we went into Tier 4.

The following section gives you all the updates regarding schools in lockdown, which we know about at the current time, as well as additional information about remote learning.

Information about schools during the National Lockdown

'During the period of National Lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only. All other pupils should receive remote education.'

We sent out a Parentmail message immediately following the government announcement on Monday evening so that we could plan for the children who would have a place reserved in school. Thank you for your response. We now have two bubbles operating in school and the remaining children are with you at home accessing our remote learning platform, Seesaw. If you have any questions relating to critical workers or vulnerable children, please contact the school, we will be happy to help.

Those of you whose children receive free school meals, you should have received a communication from school on how this will operate during lockdown. If you have not received this communication, and believe you fit within this category, please contact the school. N.B. this does not apply to infant aged children that receive free school meals automatically through the national government scheme.

More information can be found using the link below as well as keeping up to date with communications from school:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

The [National Lockdown](#) changes what you can do from 5 January 2021. This guidance will be updated shortly to provide further details on those changes.

Remote Learning

Firstly, a huge thank you for your response to our remote learning provision on Seesaw! The quality and quantity of learning, videos, photographs and work coming back to teachers is fantastic. Congratulations on overcoming the first challenge – accessing and responding to the learning!

You will have noticed that the scale and depth of remote provision has increased from the first lockdown. This is due to the hard work and dedication of the teachers to very quickly move and adapt to the expectations that the government have requested whilst always having the children's learning at the forefront of our minds.

We recognise that balancing the needs of your child or children whilst many of you working from home, is exceptionally challenging. Remember, we are here to help. If you have any questions relating to the home learning, please get in touch with your child's class teacher through Seesaw or via email to the school office.

There is a greater expectation from the government during this lockdown, compared to March 2020, on the quantity of learning that should be provided for children:

- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day

This is so that the remote education provided is equivalent in length to the core teaching children would receive in school. Please note; this is what we will provide and recommend, not what we will *insist* happens. Many our children will manage this very confidently and competently, some may even exceed this provision. However, we are aware of the challenges of home learning. Every circumstance is different and every child is different. If you have any concerns relating to whether your child will be able to manage this expectation, please contact your child's class teacher.

In order to provide this level of remote learning, we will be using a range of different methods across all the subject areas, including activities for children to complete independently, worksheets, audio and video clips. Teachers may signpost your child to recorded direct teaching sessions using Oak National Academy. The teachers are already individualising learning to support children who may find some work difficult or who may need more challenge. Due to the size of our school, we have a limited number of teachers and our provision will not look the same as another school, which may be larger or have more teaching staff. We will always do our very best to provide a rich and varied curriculum which supports your child's learning.

One of the challenges the school is facing is how the teachers teach in school whilst providing and responding to learning online, at the same time. All the teachers are engaged in some teaching in school during the week, therefore, there may be some days or times when your child's class teacher cannot respond immediately to your child's learning. Please be patient whilst we find ways to manage this. Thank you.

We will send out more detailed information once we have ensured that our remote learning provision is operating effectively and all the children are able to access and respond online. If you would like to read our Remote Learning Policy, it is on the school website in the Policy & Documents section under, 'Our School'.

Thank you once again for your amazing response to remote learning.

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School Value

Our new value for this half term is **PERSEVERENCE**. Your home/school Perseverance Value sheet has been sent to you today. We hope you will enjoy sharing this with your family at home.

Parents Evenings

It is very likely that these meetings will be held virtually but we will update you nearer the time.

Tuesday 2 nd March	4:00 – 6:30 pm
Thursday 4 th March	5:30 – 8:30 pm

Christmas Events

Despite the unusual circumstances, we successfully ran many of our Christmas events for the children, adapting them to fit the situation. All the children enjoyed a busy and excitable time in the weeks before we broke up for Christmas!

Rabbit and Otter class: The virtual Nativity performances were amazing! I hope you enjoyed watching these at home as much as we enjoyed them in school. The children loved hearing messages from the other classes to say how much they enjoyed watching them.

Christmas lunch in school was on the last day before we broke up for the Christmas break and enjoyed in class bubbles. The Christmas parties were equally appreciated in the afternoons of the final week with food, activities and a virtual Christmas pantomime provided through the PTA. The PTA spent time individually packaging the Christmas food and gifts for the children in super Christmas bags. Thank you so much, PTA!

Thank you for your contributions for Christmas Jumper day which was raising money for Save the Children. The school raised £80. The school sparkled and looked fabulously festive with the children and staff wearing their Christmas jumpers!

Celebrations!

Gold Book

Congratulations to the following children who have been in the Gold Book in December:

Rabbit Class:	Olivia, Charlie, Theo, Izzy, Edith and Felix
Otter Class:	Erin, Olivia, Bianca, Remy, Amelie and Indigo
Hedgehog Class:	Sylvi, Lilly, L'ae, Hanna, Toby and Freya
Fox Class:	Daisy, Elliott, Oliver, Dexter, Taya and Ethan
Red Kite Class:	Helena, Kitty and Zachary

Clubs and Outside School

Well done to the following children who have achieved sporting, musical or academic success outside school and in clubs:

Lex and Tabitha (Otter Class) for gaining a certificate and medal in recognition of their participation in the Library Summer Reading Challenge.

Final word...

The winning house for last half term was [Sapphire House](#) with [373 House points](#). Well done to all the children in this house!

Miss Edwards

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DATES LIST

Monday 15 th February to)	HALF TERM
Friday 19 th February)	
Monday 22 nd February		INSET Day
Tuesday 2 nd March		Parents Evening
Thursday 4 th March		Parents Evening
Monday 22 nd March to)	Bikeability (Year 5) <i>subject to COVID restrictions</i>
Friday 26 th March)	
Thursday 1 st April		End of Term (2 pm Finish)
Friday 2 nd April to)	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 16 th April)	
Monday 19 th April		Children return to school