



5th January 2021

Dear parents,

I hope this email finds you and your children safe and well.

With the closing of schools by the Government to the majority of pupils, we return to a period of 'home schooling' - two words many of us hoped never to hear again. The school is open to vulnerable children and to the children of critical workers, but the Government has made it clear that if possible, children should be at home.

I wanted to outline to you the arrangements both in school and at home to ensure that everyone understands what is happening. These arrangements will be reviewed as we move forward and amended as required.

Children who are in school - vulnerable children and the children of key workers - will need to be in school at 8:45 each morning wearing school uniform. The school day will finish at 14:45. School dinners will be available to order if required. The school day will run as normally as possible for those in class, with a break and lunchtime, and lessons in the morning and afternoon as usual. We will continue to do PE on a Monday, so children will need to wear their PE kit on that day. Each day the children will be completing the same pieces of work which those at home will be doing.

For those children not in school, we will be hosting three live Google Meets during the day - some of you will have experienced these already during periods of whole class isolation before Christmas - and setting assignments to be completed following those meetings. In order not to clash with every year in the school, these meetings will be at set times and will last between 30 and 45 minutes. The expectation is that children will attend each of the meetings and complete the assignments. If there is a reason why your child cannot attend a meeting - I fully appreciate there will be pressures on computing resources at home - please email your child's class teacher. The meetings will take place at 9:45, 11:15 and 13:30 and will comprise an English, Maths and topic or Science lesson. The Google Meets will be live streamed from school and the children in school will be part of those meetings; therefore, everyone is getting the same teaching. After each meeting, there will be an assignment to complete by the end of the day and the expectation is that children will complete the work set and upload it onto Google Classroom or email it to their teacher. If you have any difficulties accessing Google Classroom or uploading work onto it, please email myself or your child's class teacher. We appreciate that people have different resources at home and so assignments can be completed in a variety of ways.

We have staggered the live meets throughout the day to avoid too many clashes with other year groups, but in order to fit in enough live teaching, the Year 6 live meets are at the same times as Year 5 meets. If you have a child in both year groups but cannot access both meets at once, please let your child's class teacher know. If you have two children in Year 6 and cannot access both meets at once, please have both children joining in with each other in one class.



The closing of schools is the last thing that any one of us wanted to happen and I fully understand it puts huge added pressure on you as parents in a situation already made challenging by Tier 4 and now lockdown restrictions. We will do everything possible in school and online to ensure that the learning needs of your children are met but do understand it is not the same as everyone being in school as normal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do email me.

Please stay safe.

Alastair Kemp

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