

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and managing to stay safe in these difficult times. I understand some of the challenges you are facing with home learning and balancing working from home and supporting your children. Please remember, do the best you can, support your child in the best way you can and don't feel too guilty if they miss some of the work. If you are finding it challenging to engage your child – stop, put the work down and try again later.

As you are aware, the guidance around work packs in school is changing from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Unless you have a pre-arranged agreement with your child's teacher, paper work packs will not be available. If you would prefer, you can collect a school exercise book to complete the work set by the teacher accessed through the school website. We have put these changes in place to support the workload of our teaching staff, who are balancing both teaching in school, and online learning. To support school staff, can you please collect these work packs or exercise books on Monday or Tuesday between 9:30am and 2:30pm only.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents who have told us that they have issues with technology. I hope we have been able to support you through the laptop scheme. If you find that you should require a school laptop to access the Google meets or the school website, we still have a small number available. Please contact your child's class teacher to find out about availability of a loan laptop.

Again, I would like to thank you all for following the Government's guidance to keep your children at home and support the NHS. I understand some of you have had to make the difficult decision to send your child into school, however, can I remind you that you should be keeping your child at home, if you have someone at home, even if they are working from home. I understand how challenging that is, but we need to uphold the guidance set out by the Government. We can accommodate children who may only want limited time in school. So, if you are accessing provision and have someone at home on certain days, **please** keep your child at home. Only ask for provision when you have absolutely no other option. This will support us in keeping the numbers in school low, thereby keeping your children, and our staff, safe.

If your circumstances have changed, you are a critical worker and you have no other option or adults at home, then you can apply for a critical worker place. Please email the school office for the application form. The form must be returned to the school office by 12pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. You are also required to send evidence of your critical worker role, which can be in the form of a payslip, letter from employer or identity badge. We will inform you by 3:30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January if you have been allocated a place. If your child is currently at school, you do not need to complete this again, however, please do tell us if your circumstances have changed or if you have a change in your work rota particularly if you are now able to keep your child at home.

It has been fantastic to see so many children accessing the Google meets and interacting with their teachers. We have recently been alerted via the safeguarding team of some issues around safety in these meetings. Can I please ask you to support us with safeguarding all our children by ensuring that:

1. Your child is not accessing the Google meets whilst they are in bed
2. Your child is appropriately dressed ( no pyjamas or night wear)
3. There is an adult in the room when these meetings are on

Finally, can you ensure that your child behaves in the same way that they would do in a school lesson, so as not to distract others in the meet. If we feel children are distracting others, we will ask them to leave the meet and we will contact you. I know that most of you all currently follow these guidelines, however for the safeguarding of all, I needed to remind everyone of this.

Once again can I thank you for your fantastic support and your really positive comments about how school is working well to support all within our school community. These comments are much appreciated and give the staff a great boost in these difficult times. Please remember we are always here to listen and support where we can. If you need any further support, please email your child's class teacher or the school office at any time.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Harrison