



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to Term 3, sort of! This is clearly not the return we all wanted, but it unfortunately seems very necessary given the National situation. I would like to thank our community for again pulling together, for supporting each other and for going to great lengths to look after one another.

The school is technically closed, with provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers only. A child is considered vulnerable if they have an EHCP or have a social worker, but if you feel your child is vulnerable, please call us to talk it through. For the list of critical workers, please see the government website, but we would respectfully ask that only genuine cases of need apply for a place. In some cases, you may be eligible, but if you are working from home or have the luxury of other support, please consider applying very carefully. The aim of the government is very clearly to limit interactions as far as is possible. Please know however, that we are here to support you in any way we can, and if we can help, we will.

As you will know we have had some positive cases for both children and staff over the Christmas break. We consider ourselves very fortunate that the timing of these meant minimum impact on the school. However, we do now know of far more cases where family members have tested positive, so please could I ask that all children, staff and households where there has been a positive result, inform the school as quickly as possible. It is essential for our planning, even if there has been no recent contact within the school. In the majority of cases, the children have not shown symptoms, so please consider getting them tested if someone in the household is positive.

We are pleased to have been able to start our online learning, including live lessons, so quickly this term. We spent last term getting used to Microsoft Teams, allowing children to get familiar with the system through their homework, meaning that they were ready for the expansion to online learning. The staggered class times were set with a view to helping families access the live lessons when sharing a device. We do know, and expect, some technical issues at times, but please talk to your class teacher and we will do all we can to resolve problems quickly. We have already received some feedback from parents, so please do let us know how you are finding it and if there is anything that we can do to improve it. I asked back in November if you might need support with an additional device should this situation occur. Those that responded at the time were quickly given an iPad to use at home. We have had several requests for support since which we have been able to accommodate, but we have limited resources and it is on a first come, first served basis.

We have been able to run a Breakfast service, but due to staffing cannot currently run an After School Club. As soon as this becomes viable, we will let you know.

I wanted to say, to all our pupils at home that we are already missing you. Please take care, work hard and engage with the lessons as much as you can. We so look forward to seeing your faces and we can't wait to have everyone back together again soon.

Stay safe and well

Best wishes

Suzanne Farr

For children in school—Key information

Now that we know who to expect in school, we have made a few, very slight adjustments to make it easier for parents:

- ◆ Drop-off for all 8:45 to 9am (EYFS in their entrance, the rest through the side gate)
- ◆ Pick-up for all children at 3:15pm from your usual place—unless you are picking up earlier due to finishing work, then come to the office.
- ◆ Warm clothing is essential, along with outdoor coats.
- ◆ Staff are wearing masks in school, except when direct teaching.



Key Messages for home learning:

- ◆ There are online sessions each day for classes 1-6. These times have been shared with families by their class teacher. One session is for Literacy and one for Numeracy.
- ◆ Children are directed towards a learning goal for the afternoons and teachers will be available online for support. The Government guidelines state the primary school children should have approximately 3 hours per day, which is made up of the Literacy, Numeracy and project work.
- ◆ Live lessons are recorded and placed on Teams for repeat viewings.
- ◆ Children and parents must not start meetings—this creates confusion and separate groups.
- ◆ A register of those that join in with the learning is taken each time to enable us to support those not accessing the learning. If your child is not engaging with the class learning for a specific reason, e.g illness, please inform your class teacher. Children that have not engaged will receive further messages from their teacher, followed by a phone call if there is still no communication. If we still have not managed to contact you, the Headteacher will do a welfare call check with you to see how we can further support you and to understand your situation.
- ◆ Please ensure your child is suitably dressed, pyjamas are not appropriate.
- ◆ The BBC and bbcbitessize have lots of additional free resources that you can access.
- ◆ Don't forget Joe Wickes and his daily workout!
- ◆ When Teams was set up, families signed agreements about the standards we expect. Please can I remind you that this includes only school relevant comments on the chat function, relating to the work, not social activities or general chat. Can I also remind you that we expect a certain standard of behaviour, including language. Please be aware that other people in the household may be heard in the live lesson. Anyone not adhering to this may be excluded from taking part.
- ◆ Teachers are contactable via Dojo and their school email addresses. If you have a problem with access, please also view the Microsoft website as it has some very useful guides. The device that you use can also lead to differing solutions.

Advertising Space!

In an effort to raise funds for the school and to support small local businesses, we are offering some advertising space in our newsletters for a small donation to the school.

We reach over 150 families each week, providing a prime opportunity to tell others about your business or service. Advertising space is available for either a one-off or for a regular slot. You may know others in the village or local area who would benefit from this—so feel free to pass it on.

We are suggesting a donation of

£10 for a large (1/2 page) advert

£5 for a smaller (1/4 page) advert.

If you are interested, please contact Carol at finance@capel-tonbridge.kent.sch.uk

THANK YOU
NHS STAFF
RETAIL STAFF
REFUSE STAFF
KEY WORKERS
DELIVERY DRIVERS
+ ALL 
OTHERS
YOU ALL MATTER

A message from Mrs Farr.....

I would like to publicly thank all the brilliant staff at Capel, those working in school or at home. I am so proud to work with a staff that are so caring and dedicated.