



## Newton's Primary School

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***Together we reach for our personal best***

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and remaining well during the new lockdown.

We did not expect to be in this position again and we are saddened that we are unable to welcome the whole school community back to school this week. However, your child's health, safety and well-being is our priority. Your child is safest at home with you which is why we are only open to a small number of pupils.

Many of our community members have been affected by Covid since the pandemic began in March last year. Many of our families have suffered hardship as a consequence of the pandemic and many are just struggling to cope. We are here if you need anything or if you need sign posting to any services on offer.

Due to the pressures on families during this time I just wanted to write to say a few things regarding the remote learning that is in place at this time.

We are never going to be able to please everyone with what we have in place. Some will feel it is too much, some will feel it is too little. Some children will complete every activity; some children will complete none or very little. Some of you will be working at home, some of you will be looking after other family members. Some of you will have several children that need to complete remote learning. Some of you may have many devices, some of you may have none. Some of you may be brilliant at using google classroom some of you will be really struggling. Every home and every family is different. Every child's remote learning experience will be different.

Parents/Carers you are not your child's teacher and we do not expect you to be able to support your children with every aspect of remote learning to enable them to maintain their education standards. If it were that easy for parents to do so then as teachers, we would be out of jobs! You are parents with all sorts of demands on you and your priority right now is keeping you and your family members safe. As teachers it is up to us when schools return to try and make up for lost learning time and to keep children on track with their learning journeys.

Our school staff are all working really hard to provide remote learning and also to provide learning at school for the pupils attending school. None of our teachers wanted to have to deliver learning remotely, after a successful Autumn term we were enjoying having the children back to school and back to normality. We are very lucky to have such dedicated teams who genuinely want the best for your children.

The government have announced that there may be a return to school meal vouchers for those entitled to free school dinners. We have not as yet been given the guidance regarding vouchers we will let you know as soon as we have.

The truth is, as our local figures in Havering show, the virus is massively affecting our Local Authority and our hospitals. We all need to do our bit to hopefully get schools reopen in the near future.

We are here if you need us. Please get in touch.

Stay safe and well.

Yours Sincerely

Hayley McClenaghan - Executive Headteacher

Una Connolly - Headteacher