



School Newsletter – Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A Happy New Year to you! I know it doesn't necessarily feel like it, but we must stay hopeful that the vaccine will take us out of the pandemic and that we can begin to return to some sense of normality. Well done to the children for being so brave and continuing with their learning at home. I would like to formally welcome 3 new members of staff: Mrs. Kingdon in Year 1, Mr. Budaly in Year 4 and Mrs. Dhillon, our Pupil Premium Tutor. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Carpenter who was unfortunately very ill with Covid over the Christmas holidays. She was hospitalised as a result of the virus, but she is now luckily back at home recovering. I know you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Thank you for being understanding in these really difficult times. I know you have had a lot of information from school since the 31st December about the school closure, but hopefully you have found the communication to be effective, via email, the School Jotter app and the website. Please ensure that you have the app downloaded and encourage other parents to do the same.

Home Learning

Thank you for engaging with the Home Learning. As per my letter, please email the teacher daily with your work. The easiest way is to email a photo of your learning. Teachers will either respond the same day or the following day. There is no need to print sheets; the sheets placed on the website are to explain the activities and help structure your child's learning. We have also made workbooks available for the children should you so require them and they can be collected from the office. We still have a lot left, so please do not hesitate in contacting us for one.

We have had some parents who have encountered difficulty accessing the home learning, particularly those on Apple devices. I would advise Apple users (iPhone, iPads etc) not to use safari, but to download google chrome. I believe this works much better with the documents we are uploading.

Microsoft Teams

We have started to deliver lessons via Microsoft Teams and I know this is proving to be very popular with the children! This will be fully in place next week, so please check the website and your notice from the class teacher as to when the lesson will take place.

Laptop Devices

If you are struggling with the availability of devices to help you with your child's learning, please let your class teacher know. We have received a limited number of laptops from the DFE and other donations. We are in the process of setting these up, so let your teacher know if you require assistance with this.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable pupils

We are open as you are aware for Critical Worker and Vulnerable pupils only:

Critical Worker – We had a window from the 31st December until the 3rd January for parents to respond if they wished to claim a place for their child. Demand was higher than the last lockdown and I have had to be extremely careful with balancing our duty to the community, but also ensuring the safety of staff and other pupils. Many of our bubbles are now at capacity and therefore I am having to cap the numbers. This is to keep the numbers at a sensible number and so not to risk staff and pupils. We unfortunately had staff who were extremely ill over the Christmas holidays, including our own wonderful Mrs. Carpenter. This is a stark reminder of the severity of this virus and also how staff at Chattenden Primary School are putting themselves at risk every day. I am therefore having to cap the numbers in order to maintain the security of the individual class bubbles and to protect staff as well as children.

Vulnerable pupils - If your child has been invited to school because they are deemed vulnerable, can you kindly send your child in on a daily basis as opposed to an ad hoc basis. The government have arranged this provision for a reason, and it is important that these pupils have a sense of consistency and routine. Teachers are having to work really hard to balance teaching children who are in class as well as delivering online learning. Not knowing which children will or will not be in each day is not at all helpful. Therefore, if you have been invited in as a Vulnerable child, please ensure that attendance is daily and on time.

Mr R. Boyjoonauth
Principal

Dates for the Diary

Friday 12th February 2021

Last day of Term 3