

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY 2021
WWW.VANEROAD@DURHAMLEARNING.NET

Message from Mr. Pavey

Wow, wow, wow – what a week it has been! I can't believe so much has happened in just one week.

This time last week, we were wondering whether school would be closed over the weekend but then Mr Johnson said that parents should definitely send children to school on Monday, only for him to close them at 8pm that night – I am not going to comment anymore about this because it would not be professional!

What I do want to say is that despite this **school is open**, admittedly only physically for a small number of children but we are all definitely here for you all. I am so sad not to be seeing all the children each day but I do keep a check on how they are doing online. I have seen some amazing work and wonderful videos.

I know that most parents/carers find the challenges of home-learning daunting and stressful but please don't be too hard on yourselves. Most of you are not teachers and you are trying to juggle so many things, please ask for help and we will do as much as we can to resolve any issues that you have. As I said, in my video message on Wednesday, this Lockdown for schools is very different. Schools are expected to provide between 3 and 4 hours of curriculum work for children to do at home and children are expected to complete it. This does not mean that they need to be on their screens for that long, nor does it mean that teachers will be presenting for that long but it does mean that the work should take approximately that long to complete. I understand that all of you have individual home circumstances and to complete the work, you will need to adapt a great deal. New guidance released yesterday gave further instruction to schools on what they should be providing for children both in school and for remote learning.

This week you will have been receiving work directly from your child's class teacher in a range of different ways. Hopefully you have been able to access this and have found the work useful and purposeful. What the new guidance has done has clearly stated that we have to combine teaching of children who are at school with children who are at home. This has essentially doubled the normal workload for staff. To try to alleviate some of this pressure, I have paired up classes and their staff which means that you may see and hear some new faces and voices next week. Please don't worry about this, your children will be being taught the right things but the workload has been shared out more effectively. I also want to let you know that some of the teachers are finding it challenging to mark every piece of work that is uploaded by the children. There have been a number of technology issues (I am sure parents/carers have had these too) which have made accessing this work very time consuming. As this is all relatively new for everyone, I want us all to be mutually patient – school will be patient and supportive of parents/carers and children facing the challenges of online learning and I would ask that home be patient and supportive of school too. We will get there and we are learning everyday how to provide remote learning for the children.

Please remember that we are here when you need us but also, I would ask if you could be patient with us when waiting for a reply as we are dealing with a lot of messages from home. Usually we endeavour to reply to queries within 48 hours but if you have an urgent message, you could try calling school (the school office will usually be open in normal school hours) or email using the address below.

To compound our stress, we were faced with a lot of snow this morning and I have to admit that I very nearly closed the school to all. I am really pleased that we had plenty of staff in school who were more than happy to have the children in. They all had a lovely day in the snow.

Let's hope for a much quieter week next week!!

Remember if you need anything, please email: vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION NEW STARTERS IS NEXT FRIDAY
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-for-a-primary-place-deadline-15-January-2021>