



Kilham C of E Primary School

www.kilhamschool.co.uk



"Encourage one another and build each other up." (Thessalonians 5.11)

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

What a very challenging and difficult start to the New Year we are having as a school, as a community and as a country. With all of the latest government announcements, we have needed to move to online and remote teaching to help stop the virus's spread and slow transmission rates.

It is essential that we take action as a society to reduce transmission rates. I personally know of four families in the local area who have had Covid 19 and sadly, I am aware of elderly members of the community who have died because of Covid 19. It is real and it is up to us all to take all of the precautions that we can which is why schools have been forced to close and why we have been very strict with our critical workers' criteria.

Covid 19 loves a crowd, so we need to reduce the numbers in the school as much as possible to keep everybody safe.

Thank you to all of our parents, who despite not receiving confirmation of their critical worker status have understood and supported our final decisions.

I appreciate that the decision to close our school to all children apart from a small number of critical workers has caused distress and anguish. I understand that many parents who are working from home are trying to juggle work and supporting their children with their remote learning.

As a school, we have worked really hard to set up our Google Classroom remote learning platform and given the children some experience of it before we needed to close. However, to be very honest, we are at the start of a very steep learning curve for parents at home and especially for our teachers. As a school we have reorganised our whole approach to teaching and learning, introduced new technologies and made sure it links to our current curriculum provision.

The government have increased the expectation for remote learning for primary schools:

Children in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2) 3 hours remote learning a day

Children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3,4,5 and 6) 4 hours remote learning a day.

The term remote learning does not mean that children need to be continuously sat working on a laptop or computer all day. The school aims to use a blended approach to our remote learning delivery with paper-based resources, creative projects and online resources.

We hope you have been able to engage with the online learning. I know from conversations with staff that we are looking at honing and improving the provision we provide including ways to feedback on pupils' work. Please bear with us as we continue to work on our remote learning approach, we know that we have come a long way but we wish to improve and enhance what we provide for all of our children. Part of this work will involve developing the creative and sporting elements of our online learning .

From next week, I have asked the teachers to make part of our morning meet and greet sessions a registration session for children. We are directed by the government to have a system for checking whether children are engaging with the work and let parents know if levels of engagement are a concern.

Please challenge and support your children to work with the school and complete as much of the work set as possible. This lockdown is very different to the first lockdown and we see it that we are providing a school at home with work that needs completing. However, I also understand that there are many problems for families to overcome including:

- Internet access
- Adequate equipment access, especially computers or laptops, as phone and tablets are tough to work on.
- Multiple children at home trying to engage with different classwork, or only one laptop.
- Parents trying to work from home alongside children working from home.

If you are struggling with some of these issues please contact the school, as we have been allocated some laptops for lending out to families at home. (These have not been delivered yet.) The government have also offered the school support with free 4G wireless routers and we are awaiting their delivery.

I am really proud of all of the teachers in school and how they have stepped up to take on the challenge of remote learning. I am also very proud of all of our families for their work at home to support and challenge their children to be ready for online remote learning during the day. It was wonderful on the 1st day of remote learning to see 15 children in the reception class on their Goggle Meet session with each other and Miss Brown.

If you have any thoughts, either positive or questioning about our provision, please contact the teachers in the first instance to overcome any problems and make our remote learning the best experience it can be for our children.

Keep Safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. M. Palmer". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'P' and 'M'.

Mr R Palmer

Head teacher

Meet and Greet timetable:



Class & teacher	Am meet and greet time	Pm meet and greet time
Class 1 (Miss Brown)	9.40 am	
Class 2 (Mrs Dowkes)	9.30 am	1.30 pm
Class 3 (Mrs Fawcett)	9.00 am	1.00 pm
Class 4 (Mrs Dean & Mrs Davies)	9.15 am	1.15 pm
Class 5 (Miss Hobson)	8.50 am	12.50 am

