



This week	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Happy New Year to all our families, I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable festive period.</p> <p>It is now clear that this term we shall be learning and working in two groups with some children in school and some learning at home. We are still one school community and one class team and we shall be doing what we can to support all children and families regardless of their location and to offer the same curriculum to all children as far as possible. Today we have been able to host two meetings for many of our children and parents who will be learning at home over the next few weeks. There will be two more meetings on Monday next week to talk through the current plan for remote learning support.</p> <p>Our plans have been carefully considered and were drawn up by the staff team over the last few days to meet the remote learning expectations of the Department for Education (DFE) and manage the child care commitment for the children of key workers and vulnerable children in school. Unfortunately two hours after I sent the letter home to you the DFE published new guidance which will mean that our plans need to be reviewed.</p> <p>Next week we will use the plans shared with you yesterday and at the meetings today. I will be in touch as soon as possible to let you know of any changes.</p> <p>If your child is currently attending school please read the attachment sent with this newsletter. At Thorns and Park Hill we have a higher proportion of children attending school compared to other local schools and whilst we aim to keep our groups as small as possible to minimise risk to all involved some groups are already at 15 children.</p> <p>If you are a critical worker your child should only attend school so that you can go to work. Please do not send your child to school on a day when they could be at home.</p> <p>This week we welcome a new member to the staff team. Mr Andy Davies has joined Thorns as our Assistant Headteacher. It has been an interesting time to start at a new school, as some of our new parents and children will also be feeling. We hope that they all enjoy their time as part of our school and quickly feel like one of our Park Hill and Thorns school family.</p> <p>I send you all our very best wishes at this challenging time, Mrs Liz Bradbury</p>
Year 2	<p>Forest School on Mondays</p> <p>I am really pleased that we will be able to continue to provide Forest School sessions to children as part of our curriculum. Children spend a half term accessing Forest School sessions and this year we start with Year 2 children from Monday 11th January.</p> <p>Children are outside in our willow garden and wooded area for approximately one hour, even if it is cold and raining. Please send your child with a change of shoes (wellies would be ideal at the moment) and in clothing suitable for this practical activity outdoors – jogging bottoms or trousers would be a good call on a Monday!</p>