

Coopersale & Theydon Garnon C.E Primary School



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Newsletter – Friday 15th January 2021

Today we end 'Week 2' of remote education during our national lockdown. It is so important that as a learning community we take the time to reflect on the fact that even through such a challenging week, our creativity and innovation enabled us to provide daily remote live lessons for all our children. Enabling a level of continuity, connection and progression is essential as we are so aware how disrupted education has been for our children over the last year.



We are of course deeply disappointed that we are once again facing a school closure period, but this decision has been made to keep us all safe; this national school closure will allow cases to drop and reduce pressure on the emergency services. I know that many of you may be concerned about your children's learning but I want to assure you that the leadership and staff team will do everything in their power to ensure that our children still receive the highest quality of education, whilst also prioritising overall pupil and staff well-being and safety.

Working together and with your amazing support we can ensure our children have every opportunity to continue growing as learners. Please ensure that your children attend all the remote sessions and complete the home learning tasks set.

A special Thank You to our parents

'Teaching is a selfless profession and a craft that takes many years to master. As parents, you've been put into such a difficult position, to become a teacher without the training time or formal mentoring. Our staff are fully committed to supporting you and your children across this remote period. Stay positive and do what you can in the time that you can give to your child's learning!' **(Mr Bateman – Headteacher)**



'We appreciate that it is a difficult time supporting children's learning at home, especially if you have more than one child, limited devices and if you are also juggling work commitment. Our teachers have been overwhelmed by the amount of support our children have been receiving from their parents at home as well as the work that is being sent in daily. Thank you so much for all the care, commitment, and courage you have shown in what has proved to be a particularly difficult 2 weeks.' **(Mrs Atwal – Deputy Headteacher and Curriculum Lead)**

'I am in awe of the positivity, patience and commitment our parents have shown. They are ensuring our children are engaging with the planning but also sourcing resources, helping focus and motivate their learning and ensuring enjoyment and wellbeing is a priority. I am an incredibly proud teacher.' **(Miss Luck – Early Years Phase Leader)**

'You are all doing an amazing job with your child's home learning and we are astounded by the quality and quantity of the work we are receiving. We know that you all didn't sign up to be teachers and that home-learning can be tough however, we wanted to say thank you for all of your hard work. You are all doing fantastic!' (Miss Edwards – Years 1 & 2 Phase Leader)

'A massive thank you to all parents for supporting their children with the remote learning. We have been blown away with the quality and quantity of work produced by your children and it is such a joy to be able to see how amazingly your children are adapting, engaging and progressing with the remote learning.' (Miss Collin – Years 3 & 4 Phase Leader)

'The TEAMS have been great to engage the children in their learning and it's thanks to the parents for helping them set up the technology (and persevering when it doesn't work) and being supportive of our goals for the children. We couldn't do it without the support of our whole school community.' (Mrs Gardiner – Years 5 & 6 Phase Leader)

Home Learning Support

We know that staff, parents and children have done an amazing job these past 2 weeks getting to grips with Microsoft Teams and Tapestry in EYFS; please do not worry if you are struggling – We are all trying our best under difficult circumstances. If you have any difficulty accessing the learning for your child, please email the class teacher. Alternatively, you can request a paper copy of learning plans/resources to collect from the office. Teachers are also more than happy to help if you have any queries—just email during school hours and they will get back to you as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that we are supporting children both in school and via remote learning, so a response may not be immediate.



On-site provision at school

Critical worker guidance from the DfE has been updated to reflect that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

We would like to thank our critical worker families who have worked with School leaders to ensure where possible, they are keeping their children at home for remote learning.



Some final thoughts on Wellbeing...

We were inspired by a quote this week that reminded us: **“trying our best might look different each day (and that is okay).”**

With this sentiment we welcome a new week, that brings the opportunity to seek new celebrations, new challenges and another 168 hours!

Sometimes our days can be harder than others; yet our bodies and minds continue to be our chariot to carry us through. With most of us now working from home, schooling from home, exercising from home and relaxing from home the space we live in needs to be able to transform into a virtue of different settings for different contexts. It makes it easy for us to be harder on ourselves and compare each day, sometimes putting ourselves down and entering a spiral of lacklustre. It also makes it easier for us to lose some of our most precious time as our boundaries may become blurred between work; home; parent; teacher; partner; colleague and friend.

So, carry into the new week some positive affirmations for yourself and your family. Be kind with your words to yourself and to them. Remember: **“trying our best might look different each day (and that is okay).”**

