

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 2021
WWW.VANEROAD@DURHAMLEARNING.NET

Message from Mr. Pavey

I know it has been another busy week in the homes of all our children with Remote Learning as it has been in school. The Prime Minister's announcement this week about all children returning to school no earlier than 8th March was a huge disappointment to everyone. Children, Teachers and Parents/Carers alike are all fed up with this situation and want everything back to normal as soon as possible. I do think it is important that we don't relax too soon as this could make the pain we are currently feeling pointless meaning that we would have to go back into a Lockdown situation in the future. Please keep persevering with following all the rules.

I also want to be clear that schools are not given any information that is not already public knowledge. I have been a bit frustrated this week watching reports talk about how schools would be reopening. This is sheer speculation and no decisions have been made yet. We don't know whether children will start coming back in a phased way, whether certain year groups will come back first or even whether any children will come back from 8th March. As ever, as soon as I know, I will let you know. Boris has suggested that he will give his 'road-map' on the 22nd February.

Also announced this week by the Government was that school are not to open during half term. This means that our school will be entirely closed that week; there will be no Holiday Club.

I want to give a huge thanks to all staff at the school who continue to work under these very challenging circumstances. Each member of staff is working even harder than they would normally and I know that it is very much appreciated by parents/carers. None of us have had any training in how to keep learning going whilst children are at home until now and to be honest we have just had to learn as we go along.

I know, too, that the learning curve for parents/carers has been steep. There are very few parents/carers with any experience or training to teach children and I want to thank you for all your efforts too. By way of explanation, when we were put into this third Lockdown, the Government quite rightly told schools that they need to continue to educate children remotely. They stated that primary school children should be provided with 3 to 4 hours of learning, that children must complete the work and schools would be held to account for this. It is these final two aspects of Remote Learning that I have issue with. As schools we have been told to inform parents/carers if their child is not engaging in the learning and to ensure that children engage. My issue is that I don't know what sorts of pressures there are in individual homes and nor is it my right to judge this. The ability to engage in the Remote Learning is a wholly individual family issue. School is working hard with all families, especially those who are finding doing the home learning difficult. I know that parents/carers of children at our school really care about their children's education and are doing everything that they can to complete all pieces of work. But please, if we do get in touch to say that your child is not engaging, we are doing this firstly because we care but also because we have been told that we must and that we know in the future we will be judged on this. We are in this together and I don't want parents/carers to feel any sense of inadequacy or guilt if you find it all overwhelming. We are here to help!

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

Head Teacher Assembly

Thank you to those who joined us for the live assembly again this week. We had another 100 people involved 'live' and the Youtube version has been viewed almost 70 times. I can tell you despite people telling me it wouldn't work; my shed has stayed dry this week. If you missed it, you can view it by clicking [HERE](#).

Monday's assembly will be marking the start of Children's Mental Health week and we will be joining the rest of the country in a huge online assembly. Again, the link below will take you to the event.

[Head Teacher's Assembly 1st February 2021 9:05am](#)