

Saturday 9th January

Dear Parents,

It has been a roller-coaster of events over the last few days and I felt I needed to make contact to share the school plans and organisation and to simply touch base.

As you will be aware, the school is now only open for critical worker and vulnerable children. We have over 100 children on site every day, from both Oxford Road Community School and Wilson.

Those children who are not in school will be receiving remote learning. As you are aware, we have a new remote learning policy (http://www.wilsonprimary.co.uk/home_learning.html) and this states that learning will consist of 3 hours a day (on average, depending on the age group). The remote learning and the classroom learning will follow the same planning and will ensure all children will be covering the same curriculum. Each of the team leaders have allocated roles and responsibilities to all staff within their key stage (including ORCS and Wilson staff) and they will be coordinating the remote and class learning between themselves.

Given the short time that the school has been given to get the remote learning planning in place and for the two schools to coordinate, this week's learning for all children will not be based on a progressive unit of learning. From next week, the delivery of remote learning will be ready to go and teachers will be in contact with parents over this week (on class dodo and the school website) to explain what it will consist of. We know that learning from home is not the same as being in the classroom and we are looking at ways to join the children together virtually at times during the day. We will inform parents once this is up and running.

The Federation is also working hard to secure laptops and other technology for those families who need it for remote learning. Staff are currently contacting families who we know do not have suitable IT. If you have not yet contacted the school to let us know if you do not have a laptop/ipad etc at home, then please contact the office admin@wilson.reading.sch.uk. We cannot guarantee we will be able to provide IT for all families as the demand nationally is overwhelming, but we will try our very best.

We have also had enquiries regarding Free School Meal vouchers. The Local Authority have contacted the Department for Education to establish whether or not there will be a national voucher scheme and are awaiting a response. We will let parents know as soon as possible once we have any information.

Finally, I would like to thank parents of their understanding and support over the last few days. There has been so much uncertainty (and there will continue to be uncertainty) and the last minute closure of the school, after all the planning and organisation that had been put in place to open, will have impacted on the lives of parents and children considerably. Despite this, we have still received such positive messages from so many families, and I cannot tell you how much this has meant to the whole school team. Everyone is working incredibly hard to ensure our children continue to receive the education and care they deserve, under extraordinary circumstances, and we will continue to do so for as long as we need to.

I will be in regular contact with families over the coming weeks, however if you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

I hope you all remain safe and well.

Claire