

Saturday 16th January

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well and staying safe. It has most certainly been a week we will all remember!

Can I please start by thanking everyone for your kindness and understanding this week. The school has had to change plans for the start of the year a number of times in a very short space of time (due to government decisions) and I know that this will have had significant impact on our families. Despite this, the school has received overwhelming support from so many parents and it is very much appreciated. This is a difficult time for us all and it has been wonderful to know that we are pulling together as a community to manage a situation that none of us want to be in.

Remote learning will begin properly this week. Each class will post the learning onto Class Dojo tomorrow (or tapestry if your child is in Foundation Stage) and it will also be put onto the website. Staff will be available throughout the week from 9am – 3pm to support children and parents with any learning questions or issues. The teachers supporting from home will be highlighted on the weekly overview. We will also be looking to put in place some 'live' sessions at the beginning and the end of the day, where the children can meet together and talk about their learning, but we wanted to get the planning and resources in place this week before introducing anything else.

This week, we will also be putting together simple home learning packs to support children at home. These will include essential learning tools – exercise books, pencils, rubbers etc. Once these have been prepared we will contact parents and inform them of the allocated times to come and collect them. As you can imagine, we needed to order more resources in order to create these packs and we are awaiting delivery.

Parents may be aware that the government issued further guidance on critical worker children attending school due to the increasing numbers of children requesting a place.

'Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'.

Whilst the government have maintained their advice that a child may attend school if one or more parent is a critical worker, they have strongly reinforced the importance of parents keeping children at home where this is possible. With the Covid figures growing daily (and far greater than the numbers in the last lockdown), I would implore parents to keep their children at home if this is at all possible. The more children we have in school the greater the risk to everyone attending. I fully appreciate that the countries current situation is very difficult for us all however it is essential that families follow government guidance and reduce the opportunities for this virus to spread.

The school are still awaiting information from the DfE as to whether they will be continuing the Free School Meal voucher system they provided in the last lockdown. We will inform parents as soon as we have heard.

It has been lovely to see the Oxford Road and Wilson children developing such positive relationships and enjoying being together despite the horrible situation. Children do not lack the confidence we can have as adults in new situations, and have arrived with enthusiasm and excitement.

It has also been exciting to see Oxford Road and Wilson staff working so closely together to plan and deliver the remote learning and class learning together. The quote 'many hands make light work' has definitely been appropriate this week and watching everyone sharing their skills and talents across the Federation has been wonderful to see.

Please take great care of yourselves and please contact the school if you have any concerns or questions.

Claire