

Donisthorpe News

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year despite the restrictions we were all faced with!

I cannot quite believe that we are starting the year with another national Lockdown and partial school closure- the government's decision on Monday came out of the blue! Staff worked really hard to ensure that school was open on Tuesday for anyone who had absolutely no other childcare option and that we were ready to welcome our Critical Worker and Vulnerable children into school on Wednesday.

For the foreseeable future our school will remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**. The government advice is that you should stay at home. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect the vulnerable, particularly with the additional risk of the new more virulent strain.

As was the case last March, we must ask that if there is another adult at home who can look after your children, you should keep your children at home to limit the chance of the virus spreading, even if you are a Critical Worker.

I thought it might be useful to share with you some of the changes for learners at home and in school during this period:

Curriculum

The provision for the learners working remotely from home will match the provision that is happening in the classroom. So for children who are spending some time at home and some in school they can pick it up easily day to day.

Children at home and at school will be set:

- A daily Reading, Writing and Maths task, in line with current class learning (EYFS/Key Stage 1 children will also be set a phonics task)
- Tasks for selected foundation subjects, in line with current class learning
- Open-ended projects to cover one or two weeks of learning during lockdown

We understand that each family's circumstances differ, and the responsibility to provide educational support at home can be difficult for families. If you are trying to support your child at home, please don't put too much pressure on yourself, we are only on week one!

If children are having difficulty with some aspects of the remote learning work that has been set by teachers, please contact the teacher via the class email system and they will be happy to help you.

If your child is unwell and is unable to complete their remote learning sessions, please inform school as soon as possible.



Bubbles in school

Children in school have been split into 4 bubbles, EYFS, Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. The staff supporting these children are the staff usually assigned to these groups but they are on a rota so that teachers can also set and mark remote learning for children who are at home.

Children in school during this period will not mix with other bubbles, they will have separate break and lunchtimes and have been allocated their own classroom spaces.

Children in Years 1 to 6 will sit at a forward-facing desk or carpet space for as much of the school day as they can. There will be as much outdoor learning as possible with bubbles having designated outdoor areas.

Children and staff will be encouraged and reminded to remain 2 metres apart from adults and each other.

Staff in EYFS will encourage children to social distance wherever possible. However, the government have acknowledged this will be difficult and they will have free flow across the Foundation area.

Rooms will have natural ventilation – opening windows (in cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space).

Covid-19

If there is a positive case of Covid-19 in the bubble, the group will need to isolate for 10 days, and they will all receive remote learning. Remember:

If your child is displaying ANY of the three main Covid symptoms:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You **MUST** request a COVID test immediately. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you once again for your ongoing support, please stay safe. As always, if you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact school.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher