



'Bringing out the best in every child'

January 2021

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Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Firstly, I would like to start our first newsletter of this term by wishing you all a Happy New Year. It already seems like weeks and weeks have passed since we returned.

As you are aware, all schools in England are now only open to children of Critical Workers or to those pupils deemed to be Vulnerable. We would much rather all of our children were in school but we fully respect the lockdown supporting our country's response to tackling COVID 19.

The Government guidance for Critical Workers has recently been updated and states:
*Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***

In order to keep the rate of COVID transmission as low as possible we do need to try to keep the numbers of children in school as low as possible. We understand that you may be eligible for a place, but if your child can stay at home then we are asking you to keep them there. If either parent is working from home, then please keep your child at home with you if at all possible.



I want to thank all parents for your amazing support as we rolled out our remote learning through G Suite. We understand that this has been challenging for some families, having to set up virtual learning environments in their own homes. We have been so very grateful for the support that you have offered your children in helping them to

access their learning this way.

As we complete the fourth week of lockdown there has been lots of wonderful work being submitted– which we have really enjoyed reading and responding too. A huge thank you to the children for the exceptional way in which they have completed the remote learning and returned this promptly to their teachers – please keep this amazing effort up. We are so proud of you all!

Next week we will introduce Google Meet sessions to all pupils from Reception to Year 6. This will give children an opportunity to connect with their class teacher and peers, even though they may be at home. There has been an overwhelming uptake to these sessions and I know the staff are really looking forward to seeing all the children.

All the teachers and support staff in school are also really enjoying seeing how the children are progressing through the work that they are submitting. Teachers will continue to keep in touch through G Suite, offering feedback and support. But as always, please email or ring school if you need any further support.

Accessing Microsoft Teams via a Games Console

Below is a link to a guide on how to access websites and remote learning via a games console, which you may find useful. Modern day consoles, such as the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One come with internet browsers pre-installed. These browsers enable you to access remote learning sites. Please follow this link to find instructions on how to use these devices:

<https://sway.office.com/SVw8jHuzNoXCL0WG?ref=Link&loc=play>



It's really important that your child continues reading regularly, not only to improve their understanding but also **for fun!**

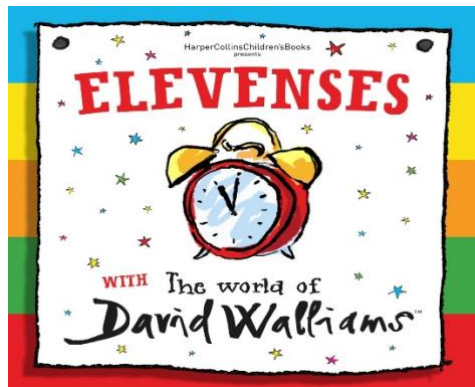
There are now a wide range of eBooks that class teachers are promoting on Oxford Owls. As a parent, you can create an account on Oxford Owls and access free eBooks. Reading Eggs also has a wealth of activities and a library where children can access books. Parents can access a free 30 day trial. It can be accessed at:

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

Why choose eBooks?

- Digital reading has been shown to help encourage young people in reading, particularly boys.
- eBooks can be read on any device, from PCs to iPads, Kindles and iPod Touches.

Other resources:



In addition there are sites where you can listen to stories from well known authors. David Walliams is currently reading one of his novels and releases the next chapter at 11am each week day with catch up time at weekends. You can access it via the link below:

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses-news/>

COVID Vaccination Centre

I am sure you are now aware that the Link4Life Centre is now operating as a testing centre. As such the top car park is out of use for all staff and parents. You may find that it is open on some days, as they are not running the vaccinations every day. Unfortunately, I do not know which days it will be open. I have requested a timetable but as yet I do not have one. If I do receive any further information about this, I will of course pass it on.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school car park is for staff only unless you are displaying a blue badge. The car park is also for the use of staff in the Children's Centre so we simply do not have space for parents to park their cars on the car park. I would appreciate it if you could pass this message on to whoever brings your child to school or collects them. We ask that instead you use the Cricket Club car park. It has been resurfaced and now has a separate entrance and exit.

Lateral Flow Testing of Staff

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be starting the lateral flow testing of staff. **This is entirely optional for staff.** If staff choose to take part, they will be self-administer a test twice a week at home. If the test result is positive, all the 'close contacts' will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. This may therefore mean that bubbles of children will be asked to isolate, if they are deemed a

'close contact'. We will of course deal with any positive cases as swiftly as we possibly can. The lateral flow tests have been brought in to try to identify any staff who might have the virus but have no symptoms. At present, there is no plan for schools to test any of the 'close contacts,' which is why they will be asked to self-isolate.

Free School Meals

All children who are entitled to a free school meal should have received a voucher which covers the next three weeks. This amounts to £45.00 per child. Please check your emails as the voucher **will not come from school**. It will either come from the Department for Education or Edenred. If you have not received a voucher, please contact the school office. Vouchers were sent to the primary email address that school have on file. Please note, this is only for those **not attending school**. Those attending school, will receive their meal when they attend. If there are particular days that they do not attend, we will provide a packed lunch.

Phone Calls from School

If you have a missed call from school, we have been making calls to all the children who are not currently attending, just to check they and you are ok!

Foodbank

I would like to express a huge 'thank you' for your generosity at Christmas. We managed to raise £150 for Rochdale Foodbank. Mrs Gomery went to Morrisons with the Rochdale Foodbank Shopping List and was able to fill two trollies! The foodbank were extremely grateful and we recently received a letter from them thanking everyone. I would also like to thank Mrs Gomery for all the time and effort she put in to make this happen!



Returning to School

At present, we do not have any confirmed date for when schools will reopen to all children. I am sure you will find out at the same time as we do. Although the government has promised to give schools and parents two weeks' notice.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards



L Woodman
Headteacher

