

NEWSLETTER

No 15: 8th Jan 2021

New Year New Challenges

Tuesday 5th January 2021 brought in a new term and yet another set of fresh challenges for our school community to overcome with the school closed to the majority of pupils as part of a nationwide lockdown. Parents had to swiftly revise working or childcare plans, school staff had to adjust to both remote and onsite provision and finally the children had to cope with yet another change to their schooling arrangements.



Your collective grit and resolve to meet these challenges head-on with a positive mindset has just been astonishing.

- ✓ Thank you to all the parents who have been able to accommodate our remote education offer and support their children so well with their learning or by explaining new procedures and expectations.
- ✓ Thank you to the teaching staff who have provided a broad array of teaching episodes this week whilst overcoming technical and logistical barriers.
- ✓ Thank you to the support staff who have so flexibly managed the onsite provision based at school.

Our teaching staff have engineered over 3 hours of live teaching provision every day and enabled children to still feel part of a shared community despite being more isolated at home. Some children have needed to be onsite and they, too, have been a part of this teaching experience (overseen by support staff). We have accommodated about 10% of our normal school population onsite. This has enabled us to stringently social distance more effectively and best complement the 'Stay At Home' message from the Government. Thank you to all the parents who have supported their children's learning with access to laptops, tablets or other devices. Please be aware that we have now received our full allocation of laptops from the DfE consisting of just 23 laptops. This meets the needs of only 6.5% of our pupils but if you have requested support but not yet received it, please be aware that we are having to work through very tight eligibility criteria.



We also welcomed Mrs Aimee Walker as Deputy Headteacher at the school this week. She has had a very busy (and unusual) first week but has already made such a difference to the support and welfare of children and staff (particularly those onsite).

Finally - thank you to all the people who have taken the time to share positive messages of support to our staff for their efforts this week - either verbally, by email or via Twitter. They have lifted everyone's spirits. We also recognise that we still have much to do to ensure that we minimise the impact of this lockdown on our children's learning so please also take the time to share your feedback on our remote provision so far.



Ross McTaggart
Headteacher

Parents' Evenings January 2021 **STILL HAPPENING !**

The virtual set of parents' evenings being held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 12th January and Thursday 14th January are still going ahead. The 10 minute appointments you booked will be honoured and teachers will be sending invites to your child's Office 365 account beforehand to attend via Teams.

Remote Provision Next Week

The usual PPA afternoons are being organised differently next week but we still need to allow the teachers time to plan and prepare together as usual. Therefore, for one afternoon every week, the children will be signposted to remote lessons from the Oak Academy website.

The format is as follows:

- Y3 Friday afternoon
- Y4 Tuesday afternoon
- Y5 Wednesday afternoon
- Y6 Thursday afternoon

Can parents please remind your children to check Outlook as part of their Office 365 accounts as many Teams invites are sent there (rather than their eschools accounts)?

Onsite Provision

Can those children attending onsite next week bring their PE kit in to school please?

Stars of the Week

8th January 2021



Spring Term 2020

Y6	Nicola Thurgood Megan Walden	Thomas Ing	William Edwards
Y5	Amelia Alexa Joshua Laybourn	Abigail McElroy Samuel Jordan	Joseph Edwards
Y4	Honey Strickland Beau Bastian	Gracie Meek	Millie Davis
Y3	Holly Hughes Sebastian Tucker	Oskar Lambourne Gracie Power-Maunder	Mia Bensley