

Mawnan C of E VA Primary

Newsletter

www.mawnanschool.com



Newsletter
8th January 2021

Dear families,

It is with great sadness that we have had to say goodbye to the majority of our school community because we are now in another national lockdown again.

We have now been living with coronavirus for almost a year, despite the fact that it has been with us for a while now it is still incredibly difficult to live with.

I am very aware that the abrupt end to last term, and now another abrupt end to this very short term, will be very hard for the children to process. I must confess I am finding it hard. I would also like to remind you that if you are concerned about your child's mental health and/or behaviour then please seek support and contact me. Please also look after yourselves.

It is with mental health and well-being in mind that I am requesting that you only message your child's teaching staff when it is necessary and please ensure that your messages are not sent in the evenings or at the weekends.

We currently have four class bubbles of children in school, which means that all staff who can attend school are in school at all times as well as teaching the children remotely. Therefore, these busy individuals are now working even more hours and I request that you respect this when messaging. We will do our best to get back to you during school hours but bear with us and please be mindful that the staff also have children in school to teach 5 days a week.

I know that together we will continue to work in partnership and come out the other end knowing that we all did the best we possibly could for our children, in what I hope and pray, will be a situation which we never have to endure again.

Miss Pridmore

Upcoming Events

Please put these dates in your diaries:

February 2021

15th – 19th - Half-term holiday

June 2021

7th, 8th & 9th – Closure Days (School closed to everyone)

Remote Learning

We have planned our remote learning for this lockdown very carefully and our objectives continue to be focused on providing your children with their full educational entitlement in the most accessible and meaningful way.

We have also made provisions so the children can connect and learn with their teacher, teaching assistants and peers every day through live Zoom sessions.

The learning that is set for the children is set in a familiar routine with resources that are both familiar and accessible to them.

Our remote learning offer ensures that:

- all pupils and parents receive clear explanations from their teachers about their learning tasks
- the carefully planned lessons and selected materials support growth in confidence and ensure the children receive their full curriculum
- there is application of new knowledge and skills
- pupils receive feedback on how to progress

We used Google Classrooms online platform for our oldest children during the last lockdown and are now using it across all classes because, in our opinion, it is the easiest and most effective online classroom.

Over the autumn term, we have ensured that the key stage 2 children are fully proficient in the use of Google Classrooms and, by lending out school Chromebooks, we have ensured that all key stage 2 children have access to technology at home. iPads with the Google Classrooms App have been lent out to key stage 1 for those who need them.

The expectation from the government on schools to deliver remote learning has changed significantly since the first lockdown. In the first lockdown schools were asked to provide guidance to parents but now the government have given schools a legal directive to follow. More information about THE CORONAVIRUS ACT 2020 'PROVISION OF REMOTE EDUCATION (ENGLAND) TEMPORARY CONTINUITY DIRECTION' can be found here <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/notice/3642261>

This has arisen because during the first lockdown not all schools provided their learners with the standard of remote learning that we did and there were even cases where some schools didn't provide any learning. Consequently, children many nationally have fallen behind academically. We continue to take our responsibility as your child's educators seriously, because we do not want your child's education to suffer because of Covid.

Our remote learning plan complies with the expectations and principles outlined by the DFE that all schools should:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks and set a clear expectation on how regularly teachers will check work
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding
- plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers

The quality, quantity and engagement in remote learning at Mawnan School will be monitored by our governing board, the Local Authority and by Ofsted. Gavin Williamson also stated that Ofsted will inspect schools where they have not provided sufficient remote learning to their pupils. I am sharing this information with you because I need you to understand that our remote learning offer will primarily ensure that your children receive their full educational entitlement and continue to make progress but we also need to be compliant with the Coronavirus Act 2020. The other change in expectation is that schools are expected to record attendance and monitor engagement with remote education. Where there are concerns about lack of engagement, schools must address this. There is an expectation that work is completed and we have a duty to ensure this happens. We will message and make telephone calls to parents whose children have not completed their tasks. We will do this because in these current times, this is our statutory duty. Please try and look at this with a positive and a respectful attitude as it is our way of supporting you at this time.

We know that lockdowns are hard and that home schooling can be both rewarding and challenging! It is not our intention to add to the current pressures of life so we have carefully considered how to set remote learning in the most accessible way, planned an interesting and engaging curriculum for your children and ensured that you all have access to technology at home.

We will be here to support you and your child throughout the whole of the national lockdown.

School Devices

We hope that the loan of a school device will enable you and your child to access their remote learning with ease. Thank you for signing our device agreement. Please can I remind you that all devices must be returned to school in the same condition that they left and that if there is any damage then families will need to replace them. So please treat them with care and look after them.

Covid-19

Our first-hand experience of the new variant of coronavirus is that both children and adults can get coronavirus and that both adults and children can transmit the virus.

We have always been led to believe by the government that children were almost unaffected by this virus but our experiences and the increased number of positive cases in children of all ages have demonstrated that the new variant of Covid behaves very differently. All of our children and the member of staff who had Covid over Christmas have all made a full recovery and many were asymptomatic.

I am responsible for track and trace up to 10 days after the children last attended school. Therefore, if your child was in school on Monday and they develop Covid symptoms or someone in your house tests positive then you must inform me, as this will have implications for the other children and staff in their classes. On a positive note, the booking of Covid tests is easier and the results are definitely coming back quicker.

Critical Worker School Provision

The majority of the school are now at home receiving their learning remotely but school remains open 5 days a week for the children of critical workers and our vulnerable learners.

In line with schools nationally, we have had an increase in the number of requests for critical workplaces and on our busiest day, we have 20% of our school community in school with us.

The government have closed schools as a last resort to stop the spread of coronavirus and schools must remain open only for vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers with jobs that are essential in the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The government have published extensive guidance on who could be eligible for critical worker provision, but I am requesting that critical work school provision is only requested when it is essential to enable you to work not just because you could be eligible.

If one parent is eligible for critical worker school provision but there is the option to keep the child at home then please follow the government guidance that states that if children can stay at home then they should stay at home.

By limiting the number of children in school, we are able to provide the children and adults with the space to be socially distanced.

Best wishes to you all,

Jilly



Reception 2021

If you have or know a family with a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, online applications can now be made for a place in next year's Reception classes.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/apply-to-start-school-or-transfer-to-junior-secondary-or-ks4-school-in-september-2021/starting-school-september-2021/>

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, 15th January 2021.