

8th January 2021



MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Mrs Hewitt

Lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening; my heartfelt thoughts go out to all of you. We feel exactly the same in school. On Monday we were in school preparing for the new term. Lessons were prepared, resources were made, and all staff were excited to see the pupils return. Then we all listened with dismay to the PM's announcement on Monday night. This has been a shock for us all. The message for all of us if possible, is to STAY HOME and STAY SAFE; that is our priority at the moment. The new variant is spreading so fast that we all have a duty of care to each other to do everything we can to stay safe.

Since Monday we have worked tirelessly to set up home learning, timetabled staff to be able to deliver lessons to the children of critical workers and to support pupils at home. The support from parents has been amazing; I can't thank you enough. However, please remember the home learning is optional. Some of you will be juggling a job, have more than one child at home to support, lack sufficient devices for work and home learning... the list is endless. Please remember you are doing your best and that is enough. If you decide to have a day to cook, watch TV, play, go in the garden, walk- that is great. If you decide to do an hour's home learning and then go for a long walk- that is great too. You know what is right for your family. You are giving your children the love and support they need at a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Each week we will be making pastoral calls to any parents/children we haven't heard from via email/phone, or who haven't been seen in school or on our TEAMS live call.

Key workers: we have had a huge number of parents request critical worker places. We have been able to fulfil these requests so far. I have let parents know the timetable for the next two weeks but this is subject to change according to ever-changing Government guidance. We are also very grateful for parents who have reconsidered and reduced the number of days they are bringing in their children; even dropping one day per week helps us to keep numbers at a manageable level. If the government introduces stricter guidance on how many children can be in each bubble, we will have to limit our numbers onsite. In the first lockdown when the virus numbers were at the same high level as now (and worryingly the new virus variant spreads more easily), the classes had to be restricted to 8/9 children. Currently, to accept all the requests from our key workers, we now have up to 21 children in a class. Hence, if we have more requests for places or a tighter limit on bubble size is introduced, we will have to prioritise front line NHS workers or parents who are directly involved in the COVID response. We will keep parents informed if their child can no longer attend.

You will have received an email regarding home learning this week. Don't forget that you can take a photo/ email this into the class teacher. Remember paper copies are available if you contact your child's teacher. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help. We hope that the children enjoyed the live remote sessions with their class teacher- despite a few technical issues along the way. We are new to this too-it has been a steep learning curve for us all.

Please remember that you cannot reply to Teacher2parents emails. We do not receive them in school.

Any emails to school need to be directed to office@meadows.worcs.sch.uk or class emails.

We really miss all of the children. On behalf of the staff, a big thank you for all of your positive comments - in these difficult times they are very much appreciated. Take time to look after yourselves this weekend.

Extra Home Learning Ideas:

BBC have produced TV supported learning. It can be accessed via your televisions instead of computers. It can also be recorded if you wish to watch it at a different time. You can view their schedule here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/guide/cbbc/20210111>

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Key messages for parents re COVID

[Book a test](#) if you or your child are displaying symptoms. If someone with symptoms tests negative for coronavirus (COVID-19), then they should stay at home until they are recovered as usual from their illness but can safely return thereafter. The only exception to return following a negative test result is where an individual is separately identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, when they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of that contact.

If someone with symptoms tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should continue to self-isolate until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should all self-isolate for the full 10 days from the day after the individual tested positive.

New COVID19 Variant

We are told that the new COVID variant is highly infectious and can be transmitted easily from person to person. If you are on school grounds, can you please wear a mask, keep a 2m distance from others and avoid congregating with other people. We are keeping classes separate, so we appreciate you not allowing your child to play with children from other classes whilst on the school grounds (unless they are siblings).

Schools have been told that they can now request help to [increase mobile data allowances](#) for children and young people who:

- don't have access to a fixed broad band connection
- cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources
- have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network
- are facing disruption to their face-to-face education, or have been advised not to attend school

To request extra mobile data, the school will need to collect the following information:

- account holder's name
- Your mobile number (a number beginning with '07')
- your mobile network
- whether they pay monthly or pay as they go

Please contact the school if you wish to apply for this.

"Everyone is a bit scared,"
said the horse



"But we are less scared
together."