



Dear Parents/Carers

It is with real sadness that I am writing to you to about another lockdown. It seems like we've only just had chance to enjoy being together again doesn't it? However it is so important to remain positive and there is most definitely light on the horizon with the various vaccines now being introduced. I understand that for some of you the home schooling aspect of lockdown is an added worry and you are by now all very aware and familiar with the particular challenges you may be facing as a family. Please be reassured – we do understand and will try to support as much as we can.

Remote learning

With this in mind, we will be offering some live online lessons which the teachers/support staff will be delivering on zoom to go alongside the video clips and lessons from Oak Academy and Hamilton maths. These may be whole class or group sessions and will focus on the core subjects initially including phonics in Reception and Class 1. Next week, starting on Monday, we will trial a couple of sessions on zoom, ready to increase this the following week should it run smoothly. (Despite constant troubleshooting we continually have internet issues at the school which doesn't help!) This will be a completely new and slightly daunting experience for the staff, but with their growth mindset hats on they are happy to step out of their comfort zone. Please be gentle with them –it can be quite nerve wracking dealing with the technology and teaching in such a different way. I will be sending out information about how to access the sessions and protocols for safeguarding and privacy which must be followed.

We all believe it is really important to see the children as often as we can and have a dialogue with them about their learning while they are not in school (and we miss them!). Alongside the zoom lessons we will also be introducing google classroom. We are rapidly upskilling and practising this week, ready to use this next week. You will receive further information from the teachers about this. For the first week we will also post work on classlist in case there are any teething troubles. Some of you are already familiar with google classroom as many secondary school use this. The benefit for us is that children can upload their work for teachers to look at and give feedback to the children. This will also inform their next step planning. We will also continue to provide alternative access to learning where we have discussed this with you. For Reception children we will continue to use tapestry as well as online live lessons via zoom.

School meals

If you are eligible for free school meals, (unfortunately this doesn't include universal infant school meals) we will be in touch with you regarding the process for this by the end of this week. We are hoping that this is a lot smoother for us and you, after the difficulties accessing the support during the first lockdown.

Keeping in touch

As the staff will be having regular contact with the children online, we won't need to be calling them on a weekly basis. Staff will remind the children during the zooms that they can ask Mum or Dad to e mail the teacher and they will be happy to give them a call for a chat



about anything. If you would like an adult at school to contact you or your child by phone on a weekly basis please e mail the class teacher, myself or Mrs Lewis and we can arrange for that to happen.

I thought it would be really good to stay in touch and offer the chance for us to meet up informally on a coffee, cake and a chat zoom once a week. Is this something you would like? Similar to the parent forum meetings but with no agenda except to support each other.

Unfortunately, I am again in the position where I will need to work from home as much as possible so that I can keep my husband safe as he is extremely vulnerable and shielding. Please rest assured that I will continue to be available to discuss any concerns. Please e mail me on headteacher@messingprimaryschool.co.uk or call the school. I can call you back or email.

Sending you all our very best wishes

Jackie Halliday and the Messing team