

Dates for
your diary.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy new year to all of our parents and families. Once again, we find ourselves in a lockdown situation. It is not what any of us want, but we will promise to do our very best in the circumstances.

Your children will be set work to do at home during this period of school closure, if they are not in school. Your child's class teacher will send an email to them every day with videos explaining what they should be doing. The work should be planned in such a way that the children can access the work and complete it independently. We know that home learning can be stressful for parents and we do not want to contribute any undue stress at this time.

We have already received some feedback from parents in terms of the amount of work the children are being asked to do and also in relation to the flexibility of returning the work to their teacher. From next week, we will be slightly reducing the amount of work that the children are being asked to do. We can always give more, but we would love it if the vast majority of children were able to complete all tasks. It is good for them; it is good for you as their parents. We also understand that to send back all completed work by the end of the normal working day (3.00pm) is not always realistic. We understand that parents are working and that children might be sharing devices.

Obviously the sooner you can send back the work the better, but we will be considerate towards those who find this difficult. All we ask, is that you keep the lines of communication open. Please tell your child's class teacher if work cannot be completed on a certain day or at a certain time. I know I have said this many times, but we are all parents too and are also working full time whilst trying to juggle home learning. Most of our children are also at home and we are all in the same situation as you. We know how difficult it is.

In my letter at the start of the week, I mentioned vulnerable children. I do not wish my words to be misconstrued or misunderstood. In this context, I was referring to the government's definition of children who could not access home learning due to a lack of devices or lack of adequate wifi at home. We have responded to all parents who stated on their questionnaire that they did not have adequate equipment at home. These families have now been contacted and have been issued with a laptop. We can also support with wifi connection at home if you struggle with data. If this is an issue that affects you, please get in touch and we will do everything we can to support. The government have more plans underway to have a more coherent plan with this and we will inform you when their plans have been finalised.

We pride ourselves on having good relationships with our children and our parents. We acknowledge that stress levels are high, but please be assured that we are not

(and never will be) intending to upset our wonderful families. If anything we do causes you upset, please do continue to get in contact with us directly and we will do our best to support you. We are all in this together. We want to support you. We want to support the children. Things may get worse before they get better but, with this vaccine, there will be brighter days ahead.

This is a new way of working and everyone is still finding our feet. We know it might not be perfect yet, but we will keep tweaking until it is. We only found out about school closures at the same time as you, so we had to work at speed to make huge decisions that we would normally spend much more time on and give more consideration to.

We pray every day that our children will be back in school as soon as possible but, in the meantime, we thank you the overwhelming support we have received. We will keep working hard to make things work for all of you. We are here should you need us!

