



## Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Remote learning

We are very pleased that we have been able to further develop the remote learning provision that we are currently providing since the first lockdown (March - July 2020). This includes:

- daily live lessons for every class on Zoom. Early Years have one live lesson per day and KS1 and KS2 have 2 daily lessons per day.
- Children in Pre-school, Nursery and Reception using Tapestry to access and upload remote learning.
- Parents and carers have been provided with class teachers email addresses, which will be used during the school closure. Please communicate directly with the teachers and send work directly to them. Teachers and the class teaching assistant will be looking at the emails daily and will respond to you within 24 hours.
- Provided more devices to support children at home with their remote learning.

Please remember as we said during the first lockdown, please undertake as much or as little of the remote learning as is appropriate for your child and your family circumstances. We would however really appreciate all children joining the live daily lessons, which can be viewed on any internet connected device, as this provides the daily teaching, and the opportunity for the children to stay connected as a class. For those families who have requested paper copy packs, it isn't possible to have all the resources printed and ready to collect at the same time and you may be asked to collect resources at different times during the week. This is to support the teacher's workload as they are still in school teaching their bubbles most days as well as teaching the live lessons too.

The Department for Education have published a blog giving further guidance for schools re. remote learning. In this blog they reiterate points that remote learning should be a mix of live teaching and independent tasks for the children to engage in.

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/what-should-remote-education-look-like-how-can-your-child-learn-remotely-if-you-dont-have-a-laptop-we-answer-your-remote-learning-questions/>

They have also provided schools with clearer guidance about the amount of remote learning that children are required to be set each day.

***When being taught remotely, your child's school is expected to set meaningful and ambitious work each day in several different subjects. Schools are expected to provide remote education that includes either recorded or live direct teaching and should be of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. As a minimum that is:***

- 3 hours a day for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2 when pupils are aged between 5 and 7)
- 4 hours a day for KS2 (years 3-6 when children are aged between 7 and 11).

*Those hours include both direct teaching and time for pupils to complete tasks or assignments independently.*

If after reading the information above, you are still concerned about the amount or quality of remote learning that your child is receiving, then I ask you to make contact with your child's class teacher in the first instance and following that, please contact myself with your concerns. We would much rather hear your concerns so that we are able to advice and support you further.

Thank you

Mrs Etienne

### Highlights of the week

We are so proud of everyone in our school community. It has been a monumentus week but we have managed extraordinary things together, On Monday we went live with daily Zoom lessons which have been an amazing success:

85 live Zoom lessons have been delivered this week

92% of pupils online accessing the live lessons

10 laptops built and distributed to support children at home

18 amazing staff members who have provided face to face provision in school

10 amazing teachers who have provided children with high quality remote learning

2 live assemblies

An infinite amount of energy and enthusiasm from our fantastic team.



### Email addresses for class teachers

Whilst we are in lockdown, teachers have been provided with a remote learning email address, so that you can contact them directly and they can contact you back. A list of all of the teacher's email addresses was emailed to you on Monday this week. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's remote learning, then please make contact with the class teacher in the first instance. They will all do their very best to support you and your child. To support the admin team, I would appreciate you not emailing the admin team with your remote learning queries at present. Teachers and teaching assistants will be looking at their remote learning email addresses daily and will reply within a 24 hour time frame. Please be aware however that all of the teachers and teaching assistants are delivering face to face lessons in school as well as the live lessons and preparing resources so please be patient and they will respond as soon as possible.

## Children of keyworkers

When school closures were announced in March last year, children of key workers were allowed to continue attending. There were very few numbers of children in school, which is how it should be. This time round however, something has changed dramatically. Nationally and locally, there are far greater numbers of key worker children attending school during this lockdown. Some are running at near full class sizes which is shocking. Not only is this unsafe for everyone, it is putting excess pressure on staff who are trying to teach in person and online.

The government has stated that families where one parent is a key worker, are able to send their children into school. Many people have therefore sent their children in as they meet that criteria. However, the government have also made it very clear that it is safer for children to be at home where possible. Therefore, if one parent is a key worker and the other parent is at home (even if they are working), then the children can be at home and do not need to be in school and that it is safer for them and for staff.

### Why is this so important?

Beds in hospitals are full. They are short of them in fact. The NHS is at near full capacity and they need their workers in hospitals. More children in school, means bigger bubbles and it is more likely a case of Coronavirus will appear and a bubble will pop. If a bubble pops and only one parent is a key worker, there is already another parent at home who can look after the children, so the key worker can carry on doing their job. I appreciate it may be harder for them to work with their children at home, but working is harder for everyone in these circumstances! If a bubble pops and both parents are key workers, there is no one at home to look after the children. One of those parents will then have to take time off work and be stopped from doing the incredibly important and life saving jobs that they are doing.

So, if your child/ren are in school at the moment, it is really important to consider whether they NEED a key worker space or not. Everyone's circumstances are different, but you do not need to take a place just because you can. Please contact [admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk) if you feel that you can reduce the days your children attend school or that they can remain at home until lockdown is over. Many thanks.

## Thank you

A huge thank you from all the whole staffing team for your messages and words of support, encouragement and appreciation. They have really meant the world to us and have helped to motivate everyone, especially on those really challenging days!

We have been required to change virtually every aspect of the way the school delivers education, care and support to the children, staff, parents and wider community with virtually no notice.

Yes, there have been a few teething issues in the last fortnight with technology and the increase of Government expectations regarding how much remote learning children should be doing. However, as we reach the end of the second week, we reflect on the many successes too that have been achieved.

Thank you for the support, encouragement and time you have invested too with your children to make this a real success.



### Hertford and District Foodbank

Please take a look at the letter attached to this weeks newsletter from Hertford and District Foodbank. They would like families to contact them directly if they are currently struggling and would like some further support. They are happy for you to make contact over the phone, by text or email.



### Catch up well being phone calls

During the last lockdown, the staff phoned all of the children working remotely from home every fortnight to see how they were getting on with the remote learning and to offer support and advice. During this lockdown we are keeping in contact a lot more with the children via the live teaching sessions and so therefore telephone calls to all children at home won't be happening for everyone. However, staff will be making wellbeing phone calls to children who aren't engaging in some of the live lessons each week. If you would like the class teaching assistant to phone you and offer support with remote learning or just to have a wellbeing chat with your child, then please email them directly.

### Dates for your Diary

#### January

25<sup>th</sup> - Parent Forum meeting 6pm

#### February

9<sup>th</sup> - Internet safety day

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Half term

#### March

4<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day

5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - Science week

12<sup>th</sup> - Comic relief/sports relief

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Week

16<sup>th</sup> - Parent consultations 4pm - 7pm

17<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultations 3.45 - 5.45pm

22<sup>nd</sup> - No Pens Day

26<sup>th</sup> - Last day of spring term

#### April

12<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 3

13<sup>th</sup> - Children return to school

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Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

23<sup>rd</sup> - St. George's day

**May**

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Geography fieldwork week

21<sup>st</sup> - No Pens Day

31<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June - Half term

**June**

7<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 4

10<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day

17<sup>th</sup> - Reserve sports Day

30<sup>th</sup> - Book fair arrives for 1 week

**July**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Enterprise Day

5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Week

12<sup>th</sup> - No Pens Day

14<sup>th</sup> - End of Year reports to parents/carers

21<sup>st</sup> - Last day of summer term

22<sup>nd</sup> - INSET Day