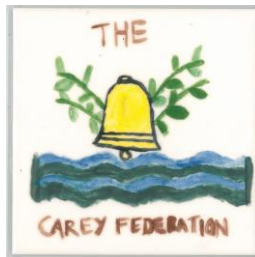


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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Ruh Alford B.Ed (Hons.), M.Ed

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Dear Parents,

Remote Learning & Key worker and vulnerable children

Remote Learning

I have been really pleased with how well the children have engaged with the remote learning. The attendance to the Zoom lessons and submitted work on Class Dojo has been excellent. I would like to say a huge well done to the teachers and teaching assistants, parents and children. This has been a team effort. The school staff have aimed high to provide quality live lessons and learning. I know that not all schools have managed to do the live lessons but I am proud to say that our staff have been resilient, taken on the challenge willingly and are enjoying the daily interaction with the children.

Parents and children also deserve praise, I know from personal experience that home learning can be a challenge and is very dependent on your child's motivation. We know you are doing your best so please do ask if you need any support, whether practical in terms of technology, advice on prioritising work or emotional support for your child. I would suggest that daily reading (particularly for those on the Read, Write Inc. Scheme) is always a priority if you are struggling to fit everything in, just let the teacher know on Dojo.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Pupil Places

As you know, the school is closed in a national attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19 but we have been offering places to children if parents are critical workers and cannot be at home to support their child or if parents or the school feel a child is vulnerable. Pre-School remains fully open.

With the Prime Minister announcing that primary schools are unlikely to reopen until March 8th at the earliest, I anticipate that more families will request a school place. In order for the lockdown to have a chance of working to reduce transmission we really need to keep the numbers coming into school as low as possible. Please note that we will only be able to offer 2 or maximum 3 days for any new requests. If your child has been attending for some time, please consider whether you need all the days you are currently using. Encouraging children not to come to school goes against everything I have always believed in but the only way I can offer support to as many families as possible is to provide part time places.

On the days your child is at home, please continue to follow the home learning via Class Dojo and Zoom lessons and all parents should check Class Dojo for messages such as what to bring for a sharing assembly or special themed weeks.

To request a part-time place, email the office with your reasoning or, if you would prefer, request a phone call from me. The office will then set you up on SchoolMoney, however, you must book the place yourself. Please don't forget to check-out your basket to complete the booking. Bookings will be opened for a week at a time, so by the end of this week, you can book for next. Please do so by Friday 3:00 pm for the following week and



in emergencies, by 3:00 pm the night before the date required.

All children will need to wear school uniform, except on Thursday when they will wear PE kits. They should bring along their book bag with their Home-Learning book and any Read, Write Inc. books they are given, as well as a water bottle and packed lunch. Please remember we are a nut-free and healthy school. A fruit snack will be provided. Please do not send your child in with a device.

Please drop-off at **9:00 am** and pick-up at **3:30 pm**. We are not staggering the start or end of the day so please don't arrive too early. Teachers have double the workload as they need time to set remote learning tasks.

It is essential that parents maintain social distance with each other. Please use the usual routines i.e. waiting in turn for families to collect and continue to wear a face covering.

We continue to run the school as one bubble.

Please remember that if any member of your household develops COVID-19 symptoms, **the whole family must isolate immediately** and your child must not attend school. You must arrange a test for the symptomatic person as soon as possible, via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
Please keep us informed and updated of suspected and confirmed cases.

Only one of the symptoms needs to be present to isolate and get a test. In addition to the official symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, please look out for 'flu like symptoms such as extreme fatigue, muscle aches and headaches which people are reporting as symptoms. I would urge you to err on the side of caution at this critical time.

Please see our updated risk assessment: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/halwillps/UploadedDocument/7a1cfcc5a962468d8dff6eaf1aa71443/ra100-v-2.3-lockdown-3.0-jan-2021.pdf>

If you have any questions or require further information do not hesitate to email admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Stay safe and well,

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher