



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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8th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Wow! What a week!! Our New Year certainly started with a bang!!

I'm sure I'm not alone but my New Year's resolution has been tested a little this week. I'm hanging on in there trying to run for 20 minutes most days.

As I ran last night, I reflected on the immense response from our school staff this week. I have always maintained that we have a phenomenal team in our school that really does pull together, supports and genuinely cares for each other and will just roll their sleeves up, share the load and do what needs to be done. This week has left me in no doubt, they are simply the best! Offering a well-sequenced curriculum through a combination of 'on-site' provision **and** remote learning is undoubtedly the toughest scenario to manage, within the current expectations placed on schools. However, hard work and determination has prevailed, the transition has been made and every single member of our staff has played their part and delivered.

Provision for Vulnerable and Critical Worker Children

On-site provision is operating as it did before the Christmas holidays albeit with a reduced number of children (currently 41% of the school roll). Maintaining consistent groups and keeping our groups apart reduces the risk of transmission. Smaller numbers of children and staff within each group also allows us to encourage greater distancing within the bubble. All of these measures help to reduce the network of possible direct transmission and therefore, hopefully, benefits public health.

The government have clearly stated:

'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'

(Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools (January 2021)

School will, of course, meet its legal requirements and make appropriate provision. We have been trying to accommodate all requests but I would like to ask everyone to further consider this matter and, if at all possible, reduce the number of days their child needs provision.



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There is also a very practical issue about teaching resource. A teacher can only be in one place at a time, and with large numbers of children in school it will detract from how well we can provide online teaching.

Whilst school will hopefully avoid having to formally restrict the number of available places we will, if necessary, have to use criteria to prioritise places. A number of schools locally are already doing this. In addition, school may have to start a process of contacting some employers to confirm the status of employment.

Remote Learning

Staff have worked tirelessly since the first lockdown to familiarise themselves and begin to train children in the use of new online platforms to deliver remote learning. We have experienced a few technical challenges this week with uploading resources to Seesaw and also our school firewall blocking some functionality within Google Classroom. These issues are being addressed and so, hopefully, we will continue to be able to refine and enhance our remote offer. Next week, Year Six will trial a virtual gathering of the cohort through Google Meet so that we can then consider and explore its potential more broadly.

Staff will closely monitor pupil responses and interactions with their remote learning, offering support where required. Please continue to contact us if your child is struggling with any aspect of home learning (**technology-related, academically or emotionally**) -this is important- we want to help.

The guidance, issued yesterday, states that schools are expected to provide teaching that is equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils receive in school. This is to include recorded or live direct teaching time and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently, and this should be as a minimum:

- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day

In terms of remote learning, school would, in perfect circumstances, obviously like children to complete all the tasks and work provided, but school is equally very mindful that this will not always be possible, and, it is appreciated that many parents and carers will be busy working, having Zoom meetings, and balancing all sorts of other demands.

For absolute clarity, school recognises and understands that it will simply not be practicable for every child to complete every task, so neither you nor your child should panic or stress if all tasks are not completed. The key is to simply do the best possible in these difficult and hugely challenging circumstances.

And finally, thank you for all you continue to do to support us. We have been overwhelmed by positivity and encouragement this week- it really does make a difference!

With very best wishes,



Headteacher



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