



Dear Parents and Carers,

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**HAPPY NEW YEAR:** I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable Christmas break despite the restrictions. It seems odd to be wishing you all a 'Happy New Year' when we are currently in a National Lockdown for the second time. However, I think we have lots of reasons to welcome 2021. The greatest one is that the vaccination has been created that should rid us of this dreadful virus and the roll out is well underway. Predictions are that most vulnerable groups will receive their jabs by the end of February and life should start to return back to normal by the late spring. I am sure that 2021 will bring us all lots of joy. So, on that optimistic note, I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

**SCHOOL CLOSURE:** I am sure you were all as frustrated as I was with the timing of this Lockdown. I was quite honestly staggered to be told on Sunday by the government that the school had to open, to then be told at 8pm on Monday that we had to close. As far as I know, the plan is to reopen the schools after the February half term break. I will keep you updated on all developments.

**COVID19:** We had a positive case of COVID19 this week in school. Those that had close contact with the case have been advised to self-isolate until next Friday.

**KEY WORKER PLACES:** This Lockdown does not appear to be the same as the last one if the Key Worker requests are anything to go by. Many more parents have requested places than did last time and we have many more children in school. The government have been clear that these places have to be given to Key Workers to allow them to go to work. If alternative childcare can be found in the home, then that is where the child should stay. To minimise the risk of infection to both pupils and staff as few people as possible should be in school. At KMS we have followed the new guidance which states: **Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.** I thank you for your support and am confident that, if we work together, we can keep our community as safe as possible in these dangerous times.

**REMOTE LEARNING:** The school has now returned to Online Learning, with work being set on Google Classroom for Y1 – Y6 and on Tapestry for Nursery and Reception. This worked very well during the last Lockdown and I am confident that it will do so again. Each day the children will be set a variety of activities by their teachers that should be completed and submitted online. The teachers will then mark the work and provide feedback to the children. Some of these lessons will be audio and video recordings and some will be on slides. For those on Google Classroom there will be twice weekly live Google Meets for the class: chats, Show and Tell, quizzes, story time and so on. The Foundation Stage are investigating using Zoom to enable them to have live sessions with their pupils too. We will be including live lessons at some point. In addition to all of this the children will be expected to read, learn spellings, complete Mathematics activities and take some physical exercise. The teachers will be sending out weekly timetables so that you know what the workload looks like. Home schooling can be great fun with your children and allow you to be fully involved in their education, but it can also be very stressful. As I said last time, if schoolwork is causing friction then please just pack it up for the day and start again tomorrow. Effective learning will not take place if either the child or the parent is anxious. You all did a brilliant job last time and I know you will do so again.

I would like to thank the staff for being able to switch on to Google Learning so quickly. They had all planned a series of lessons that could immediately be sent to pupils in the case of a 'without warning' Lockdown, which is what happened on Monday. Well done team!

**SCHOOL OFFICE:** If you need to contact your child's teacher regarding Google Classroom then please do so via Google Classroom and not by emailing the school office. All other correspondence should be sent into the school office as normal. Thank you.

**SCHOOL DINNERS AND WRAP AROUND CARE:** All lunches and Breakfast and After School Club sessions have been cancelled on ParentPay until half term. The funds will remain on your account for you to use at a later date. If you do require a refund which will enable you to withdraw funds to your bank account, please email the school office by the end of the day on Monday 11th January.

**SPORTS NEWS:** Congratulations to all those who took part in the Streettag competition last term, we managed to hold on to a podium place and finished 3rd behind Hill View and Christopher Rawlins. As a result, we have been awarded a £50 prize to spend on sports equipment. I hope it is something that has inspired people to get out and about, and get your children active? This term's competition has already started, and we find ourselves down in 4th position. It looks like our main competition this term will come from fellow Bicester schools as Brookside, Bure Park and Langford hold the top 3 positions. Let us see if we can close the gaps to those schools and win another prize. Another incentive is to finish in the top 2 positions, which will allow us to qualify for the Oxfordshire Youth Games. Let us see if we can become the most active school in the county and win more prizes! If you have not signed up yet, then download the Streettag App and scan the QR code that is on the front gates at school. Steve Roberts PE Coordinator

**BABY NEWS:** I am delighted to report that Miss Meyer is expecting her first baby. I am sure that you will all join with me in offering congratulations to her and her husband, Iain. She will be finishing at half term and Puffin Class will be covered by Mrs Ward until Easter. Flamingo Class will be taught by Mr Laurie every day for that period. I will inform you at a later date who will be covering Puffin Class for the summer term.

Have a good weekend.

*L Daulton*

Mrs L Daulton

Headteacher