

NORTH NEWTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE"

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Dear Parents

End of Week 2.

I hope things are beginning to settle down and a routine is evolving making Home Learning more manageable. For those who have made timetables and agreed a routine in the home, there appears to be less of an issue.

Fully appreciating it is frustrating for all, we must all make time to look after ourselves and must not be too hard on ourselves if things are not going well and equally, be quietly proud when things turn out better than we imagined! I hope you agree my staff have been very supportive and helpful to all I would like to thank my staff who are at home trying to produce a fair balance of Home Learning and being at the end of the 'email contact line' to answer any queries when they arise. The timetable / hyperlink arrangements some classes have adopted has received positive feedback, thank you. Equally, with a minimal number of staff operating in school, they have also been superb. Those children in school have worked hard and staff have ensured they have their resources to hand. They are all socially distanced. We have opened Foxes and Squirrels into 1 large classroom, so children are very well spread out. Staff are being socially distanced and ensuring all are as safe as possible.

Home Learning Packs & Food Hampers

These have now all been collected or distributed – thank you to all those who have collected. We hope they help and if you require further information, books or resources, please email via your class email address and we will respond. The Food Hampers are being delivered on Thursdays. As a school, we are supplementing with fresh foods to ensure our hampers are healthy. The Government is relaunching the Edenred Food Vouchers, which we will adopt.

Home Learning – Communication

In trying to ensure my staff have appropriate downtime, there must be no expectation for them to reply to the class emails outside of normal school hours. Of course, with their own children at home, the evenings might be when they can respond, but rest assured they will reply as soon as possible.

It has been lovely to hear positive feedback from Zoom calls and the effectiveness of the communication through the class emails. The class Facebook pages are also positive. We have introduced class emails and zoom calls to all classes (and more frequently too) from previous feedback from the last major Lockdown.

Laptops & Devices

There have been several calls made to parents who may need a device to aid their child's Home Learning, and we have been able to support them. If you are in an impossible situation and you haven't received a call, please email the office and we will try to arrange something. We have already given out our 'quota', but if we can help, we will do so. Understandably, we do require a number for those children who must be in school.

Home Learning – a fine balance!

As parents, there are always pressures on us to do our best for our children and try to ensure they are not 'slipping behind'. The reality is every family has challenging days, but we know tomorrow might be a better day. I have had

many conversations with Headteachers from different schools – there is such a wide range of expectations. I sincerely hope we have the balance about right and we will continue to support as best we can.

Critical Worker – Children in School

Thank you for your support in ensuring our numbers are as low as possible. The safest place for your child (and staff) is at home. It is sad to hear some schools have 30% - 40% pupils! How is the transmission rate going to be reduced with these high numbers? Having spoken to several Headteachers, they wished they had set the parameters stricter in Week 1 – I am glad we did. At least 3 schools in the Taunton area have already had to close to all following positive cases. To be clear, should we receive a positive case, those affected would have to self-isolate at home for 10 days and the whole school would be closed for 10 days as well as we are operating 1 bubble.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. I hope you have some downtime and enjoy the weekend by going for a long walk, playing in the garden, making a den, getting lots of fresh air, cooking, playing board games and perhaps keeping away from screens as we all realise the during the Home Learning, children are using screens more than they usually do.

Kind regards

Mr Arnold
Headteacher