



Frimley Church of England Junior School

28th January 2021

Dear Parents/ carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe. Once again, I must thank you for all the support you are giving both to us as staff in school but also to your children. The uptake of remote learning is fantastic: in week 1 and 2, 97% of children currently learning at home joined their allocated live lesson, we'd love to get this to 100%! We know that this would not be possible without all of you giving your full support to what we are offering. I appreciate that this must be really tough at times with you having all of your other responsibilities etc but please be assured that we are extremely grateful to all of you for continuing to work with us so we can best support all of our children. Working alongside this of course is my responsibility to protect and support all of our staff too as they are working harder than ever, under more direct parental scrutiny than ever before and also trying to support their own families etc. It's certainly not easy but together we are working our way through this.

We would really appreciate your feedback on our current remote learning offer and this link will take you to a survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA_dTCEu-sDBMIhY3Ge154JO2NwxTWIZTOz3BTr6fWu9U0mw/viewform?usp=sf_link

It would be great to hear from as many of you as possible about your experiences of the remote learning, please complete one survey per child. The deadline for the survey is 5th February. If your child is currently attending school, please do not complete the survey.

The Prime Minister announced yesterday that schools will not be fully opening again after half-term, which of course is extremely disappointing for all of us as we really do want the whole school community to be back in school together again. However we do of course understand the need for this to only happen when it's safe to do so. They have announced that the earliest schools will reopen will be 8th March so we know that our current situation of only being open for critical key worker children will continue until at least then. We will of course keep you updated as soon as we hear anything more and, following the parent survey, review our remote learning offer for after half-term.

I have spoken to several families this week who have raised concerns about the effect this lockdown and partial school closure might be having on their child's mental health; this is totally understandable. Please do look back at the ideas Mrs Stroud shared with you in her newsletter last week and we are also looking at putting together a mental health activity book for those children who would like it... watch this space!!

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Learning Together We Grow

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As part of the development of Surrey's Early Help offer, they are building a Hub which is intended to become a go-to resource to help parents looking for additional information about how to support their children. By their own admittance they are starting small and initially just focusing on behaviour but the intention is that this builds to be much more comprehensive in terms of what it offers. Here's the link: <https://www.surreysfamilyhelphub.org.uk/?view=category>

A few other suggestions to further support the children learning at home have been shared with us over the last week and one idea that has been successful for some families is where parents have independently arranged for their children to connect via Teams (outside of their weekly live session) with peers from their class or year group and the pairs/small groups are completing their school work together. We think this is a great idea. Rarely in school are children expected to work silently on their own, moreover the teacher facilitates the learning (just as they are doing now via the pre-recorded lesson inputs) and then the children explore their learning, often working collaboratively with others. If any of you want to set this up then please do so – we'd love to hear how you're getting on. Equally, if you have any other ideas for supporting children's mental health during this challenging time then please do email them in and we can try and incorporate them into our activity book.

As I mentioned last week, our school staff have now started taking the Lateral Flow tests twice a week and the Risk Assessment on the school website has been updated to reflect this. So far, thankfully, all results have been negative!

As you will be aware, as part of our daily learning packs that are sent home (and used in school), we have been including links to pre-recorded acts of daily collective worship. We will continue to send these home and will also hopefully be sending home a link to a weekly act of worship led by a member of the Guildford Diocese Education Team too. These links will also be shared and watched by the children in school so although we are not together, we are still connected:

Mon – led by myself or Canon Stuart (alternate weeks)

Weds – led by Mrs Farage

Fri – led by Guildford Diocese

Also just a reminder that we have a planned INSEt day scheduled in for Monday 22nd February so school will not be open to any pupils on this day and we will not be sending home any remote learning or having live lessons. The spring 2 half-term for children will therefore start on Tuesday 23rd February.

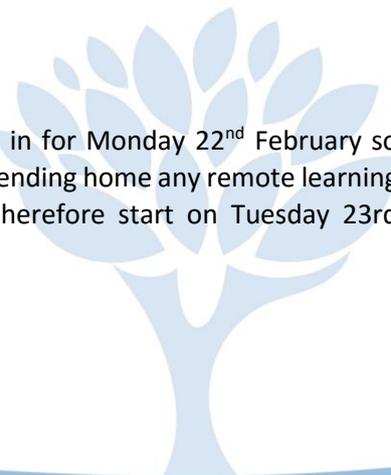
Thanks as always for all your support, patience and understanding.
Kind regards and stay safe,

Clare Wright
Headteacher

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