

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You will all be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement that all schools are now closed until further notice, probably until after February half term on 22 February, for all but a selected number of children.

At this time as stated earlier today, I am asking those parents who may be classed as a critical/key workers (NHS, police, fire service, medical profession, teaching professionals, supermarket workers, delivery drivers key to the movement of provisions and medicines, etc) to complete the form emailed to parents as soon as possible. I would also ask that you let us know if you intend to send your child to school during this period so we have an idea of numbers. This is the same for those children who are vulnerable and have EHCP's.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the guidance sent out earlier. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. The line will be and was previously that if you are able to keep your child at home and continue to ensure they are able to access the remote learning that this is preferable to stem the transmission of the virus.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing/shielding category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. **Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. This means that informal childcare arrangements with other parents outside your support bubble should not take place.**

We will be moving to remote – online learning as from Wednesday 6 January with activities that the children will be able to complete themselves and begin 'live' lessons on Thursday 7 January. The activities and timetable for the coming weeks will be uploaded and posted onto the class webpages on the website. Please do refer to these for the information needed to ensure you are ready and prepared for the coming weeks of remote learning. The live lessons will be on zoom and codes will be sent to parents tomorrow for these. From next week we will be moving to Google classrooms. You will be sent instructions and log on details. You can access this using a smartphone/ipad/laptop/tablet/desktop. Please do contact me or your child's class teacher if you have issues logging on. If you have connectivity issues or lack an accessible device to complete the remote learning, please do email me and we can help work something out for you.

The teachers have been busy preparing home learning for your children and this information will be sent to you by this afternoon or tomorrow morning at the latest. There will be learning linked to English, mathematics, other subjects, creative projects, physical exercise links and ideas for general learning and fun. There will be three live teaching sessions for those at home on a daily basis. The live lessons will be staggered to allow for you to support your children in more than one key phase. These will be for the whole class and not for individual groups. Logistically this would not be possible due to class teacher having children both in the class with them and at home. Please do be patient if when the class teacher asks questions of the children online, if your child is not chosen to answer on a daily basis. It is really difficult for teachers to share their teaching screens as well as seeing all pupils as you know the screen minimises and you cannot see everyone. All children will be asked to answer questions over the live sessions daily or over the days.

The live teaching sessions will see the teacher provide the main input to the learning then independent learning on the subsequent activity relating to this at home. During this time you may wish to supervise your child or support their learning as required. There may be a drawing together of the session at the end of this time or a recap at the start of the next live session.

Email address: office@almondsburyprimary.co.uk

Website: www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk

There will be daily mathematics and English teaching as well as an afternoon session linked to topic work. One afternoon per week will be solely online independent activities to enable the class teachers to plan the next week's learning as would normally happen in school. If you require paper copies of learning packs for the week please request these by Friday each week to your child's class teacher. The packs will be available for collection from 10.00am on the Monday weekly.

Please do check the school website for regular updates and messages on class pages. Work completed can be copied via scanning or a photo and sent to the class teacher via their email addresses so they can monitor what the children are completing at home. There will be daily feedback for the whole class rather than individually to ensure all children are included and can see where they have been successful and where they need to improve. This is a practice that we are using in school.

Try to read daily with your children as a start and practice number sentences including times tables. Make sure your child takes advantage of the online Rising Stars Reading Planet that we introduced over the Christmas holidays. We have paid for all children to access the reading material. You will have been sent home your child's log on details and password. Your child's class teacher has already chosen the books for your child to be able to read. They will be monitoring their progress of this and completion of the quizzes at the end of the books.

It will also be important to keep the children fit and healthy through physical exercises suggested and of course imaginative projects will maintain interest and enthusiasm. However, it is also good for you to create your own your timetables (set within the online/remote learning times) to fit in with your own family routines. However, the most important aspect is for you all to keep safe, stay well and remain healthy.

When we are clear regarding the children who will be able to remain in school and where we will be operating from, we will inform you immediately.

We will do everything we can as a school staff to keep supporting your children and your families at this time. We are at the end of an email or phone call so please don't hesitate to contact us. We have been here before and unfortunately find ourselves in the same position once again. We have developed our systems and remote/online learning provision to be more encompassing than last year. You were marvelous in supporting your children during the first lockdown last March and I am sure with the increased support from teachers you will be able to cope once again. Keep strong and remain calm is the main advice I can give. Do as much as you possibly can. We will be checking in with those who are not able to attend the remote/online learning to see how we can support you further.

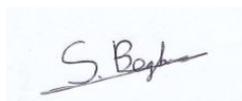
Please do keep your eye on your email, phone for text messages and website for updates or further details. We will be sending these out regularly and will inform you by text of changes or updates which will then be either emailed or uploaded onto the website.

We hope that you and your families all stay safe and healthy and hope to see you all very soon.

Yours sincerely



Mr Paul D Smith
Head Teacher



Mr Simon Begbey
Chair of Governor