

Drayton Junior School

Newsletter January 2021



I hope you are all keeping as well as can be expected during these difficult times. This certainly isn't the start to the new term we had planned.

Making the decision to close the school, the day before we were due to return after the Christmas break, was probably one of the toughest ones I have ever taken as I knew the impact it would have on so many families. However, it sadly proved to be the right thing to do so that most of us can all stay at home and try and get the infection rates under control again. Having experienced the tragic consequences this virus can have within my own family, keeping safe has to come above everything else.

It is really pleasing to see how well the children are interacting with our remote learning, which is much different from last time around. Many of you will recall that during the last lockdown I wrote to you all to reassure you that we know you are not teachers and that if the remote learning is proving to be a struggle, at times, please let the teacher know who can then support you by clearing up misconceptions etc. Hopefully this will be easier for the children now using Google classroom. Remember, all the information about remote learning, as well as FAQs, can be found on our website.

As happened during the last lockdown, we will tweak and develop our provision as we go, learning from what is and isn't working. One such development will be that from next week we will be having daily Zoom class check ins – *see information on next page*. This will allow everyone to “touch base” as a class, give the teacher a chance to explain the day's learning, as well as discuss any common misunderstandings from previous learning.

I will also be delivering a Zoom assembly, for any child who wishes to join us, at 10.15 every Friday – **Meeting ID** 641 540 8535 and the **password** is Friday. These details will be the same each week.

The school feels like a very strange place without over 340 children filling it up and I know we are all looking forward to the day when it is safe to return to face to face teaching again. In the meantime, I hope you all look after yourselves and keep well.

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Daily Zoom class meetings from Monday – 18.1.21

I'm sure you will agree that having the children meet up daily, with their class teacher, will not only help them to understand the learning expectations for the day but also be good for their well-being. However, in order for this to happen safely we have placed some rules to be followed:

- **Recording of the meetings is strictly prohibited**
- **Staff have been permitted to disguise their homes with different or anonymised backgrounds.**
- **Children need to be ready to start at 9.00am (Years 5 & 6) or 9.15am (Years 4 &5). We have staggered the start to allow for any devices at home to be shared.**
- **Children and parents should be dressed appropriately e.g. no pyjamas and should ideally be seated at a table with as few distractions as possible.**
- **Any inappropriate behaviour will result in the child being removed from the meeting.**

Posting of remote learning

In response to feedback we have received, we will now post each day's remote learning by 7.00pm the previous evening when we can. This will allow parents/carers some time to look ahead at the next day's learning so they can be prepared, should they so wish.

Please note, this may not always be possible for every lesson as sometimes the teacher needs time to prepare the evening before.

Thank you

I would like to publically thank local resident Roger Tatton who kindly donated some laptops for the school to hire out. At the time of writing we are still waiting for our government allocation, therefore his generous contribution was very much appreciated.

On the subject of thanks, I would like to thank all those parents/carers who have sent messages - and gifts! - of appreciation for all the staff are doing at this time. I'm sorry if I didn't get back to you all but they were all read and mean so much to us.