

## **Update: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Well, we have all survived the first week of remote learning! I hope you are well. We will of course continue to work in partnership with you and we are here if you need anything.

With cases surging again over the weekend and schools filling up the DFE have finally amended their guidance to... **pupils in England should not attend school if key worker parents can work from home.** Many of you are already following this guidance and I know you appreciate the importance of keeping the school population as low as possible to protect the children of critical workers who have to be in school and of course the staff.

The number of cases in Ch-le-st has more than doubled this week rising from 246 to 641 in the postcode around our school. We have had our first positive case in school since returning last week and we have a number of children off to be tested today. Hopefully they will all return negative results but if your child is still attending school it would seem sensible to have a contingency plan in place in case of bubble closure.

### **Thank you**

We appreciate all that you are doing to respect the spirit of the lockdown and keeping your child at home unless absolutely necessary. By everyone doing their bit we hope infection rates will fall and this lockdown will come to an end quicker so we can all get back to 'normal'.

Your kindness and support have been amazing. Thank you so very much for the treats and lovely messages. I did receive an email which started .... I am aware Mr Gavin Williamson has recently suggested parents could contact Ofsted to complain if they are not happy with home learning provided for their child's school...firstly, I panicked thinking which of our lovely parents would do such a thing 😬... I then read on and was overwhelmed as I read the parent wanted to do the complete opposite and had sent the most wonderful, supportive letter!

I know some of you might be alarmed at the announcement recently that primary children are expected to work for 3-4 hours a day. You are all in different circumstances – please just remember that doing your best **is** good enough and as long as your child is happy and healthy you aren't going far wrong.

This is only my opinion but the most important thing you can do to mitigate learning loss for your child during this time is to read aloud with them or to them...choose a book slightly above their comfort range if you are with them or something they are comfortable with and find enjoyable if they are reading independently. Reading really is the key to education...and can be lots of fun!

**PTO**

## **CBBC**

From today, CBBC are running educational TV programmes for 3 hours on a morning to help support parents with home learning. Joe Wicks is also resuming 'PE with Joe' on Wicks' YouTube channel from today starting at 9am.

## **Additional Home Learning Support**

Not all children learn best through screens or pen and paper. For some, a more practical approach is beneficial. One of our teaching assistants has set up a Twitter and Instagram account which pulls together lots of brilliant home learning ideas. To follow:

Twitter: **@homelearning101**

Instagram: **home.learning101**

## **Change to School Inset Days**

As you know all teachers are required to complete 5 training days during term time each year. However, it would seem sensible (in order to continue to support you with provision for Key worker & vulnerable children and to continue to provide remote learning) to postpone the inset days on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Consequently, school will continue on those days and the designated staff training will now take place on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July instead. The Inset day on 18<sup>th</sup> June will go ahead as planned. So, **school will close to the children for the summer on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

To clarify, the 3 remaining Inset (staff training) days for 2021 will be:

- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Keep safe,

Lorraine Gowland