

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Westbury-on-Severn
CE Primary School**

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and coping with yesterday's news of the new national lockdown. It has certainly been a challenging day as we try to implement our own contingency plans and switch to remote learning for children. I would like to say a huge thank you though, for all the messages of support that we have received. This situation is not what we wanted or expected, but to receive messages of thanks has been so gratefully received.

I am writing to update you with the start of our plan for the continuation of learning and our intentions regarding remote learning. Much of what we have put in place is reflective of the Government's directives and expectations surrounding learning from home during this lockdown. I cannot stress enough however, that the way this lockdown will operate from an educational perspective differs hugely from the previous national lockdown, when much of the educational expectations were suspended.

As in previous letters, I will endeavour to write this as a series of questions and answers, which I hope you will find helpful.

Once again, our thoughts and prayers and best wishes are for you all and your families.

David Crunkhurn
Headteacher

INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS:

What is the difference between Lockdown in January 2021 and Lockdown in March 2020?

The biggest difference is the expectations surrounding learning at home. During the previous national lockdown, children were set learning to be achieved at home if they were able to. However, during this lockdown, the Government have said that learning at home is not optional. There is an expectation that as a minimum, children in primary school will engage in 3 hours of home-learning that is set by the class teacher. Learning will be completed daily and returned to school via an online platform.

At Westbury-on-Severn CE Primary School, we have chosen to use 'Google Classrooms' as the platform teachers will use to set home-learning, monitor home-learning and respond to home-learning. This portal will be the main place for you and your child to upload completed tasks and communicate with the class teachers about any concerns or worries you experience with the learning.

Class teachers will be sending home their own emails to you to explain exactly what the expectations for home-learning will be for their classes, what is expected in terms of completion and how to communicate. This week, the children will be learning to work with this online platform and learn how to use it correctly.



Home-learning that is set, will be monitored twice a day. Around midday, the teachers will be checking the messages sent in from children and will try to respond to them as much as possible. Between 3pm and 4pm, the teachers will be checking and marking submitted learning and will respond to that work so that children are aware that it has been seen. Every Friday, teachers will undertake a substantial review of the week's learning, which we have called Feedback Friday. This will take place for each child. Teachers will then complete in-school proformas that will map the children's learning so that we can see who has engaged fully with the tasks and who has not. If not enough learning is completed, teachers will contact you as parents/carers straight away to understand why. All learning must therefore be completed and submitted by 3pm daily – Monday to Friday.

Please be aware that presently, all staff are in school and will be teaching classes to children in school as well as to children at home, therefore communication will not be immediate as this has increased the ongoing workload for staff. It is always important that the children continue to do their best as they do in school. Teachers will try to respond to issues as quickly as possible, but completed learning must be submitted by the deadline. Google Classroom will let you know if it is late!

Teachers will be combining remote home-learning with online lessons via our Zoom platform. This will mean that lessons can be taught to all children at the same time. This will be a very new initiative, so we may experience some technical difficulties! You will be informed weekly by the class teacher when these Zoom lessons will take place and children are expected to attend.

During March 2020 lockdown, we used the Instagram platform as a tool to share home-learning, and parents/carers sent many photos into school for teachers to upload onto their class account. However, this time, any photos that you take relating to the home-learning that has been set, must be uploaded to your child's Google Classroom platform. A selection will be taken to celebrate learning across the class and uploaded to the class Instagram account by the teacher.

Because there are a number of different devices that people use at home, teachers have agreed to share home-learning material as PDF as well as Word documents so that you can access the learning on any device. We have found that PDF format can be accessed on mobile devices as well as laptops, whereas Word documents tend to be difficult to access on smaller mobile or tablet devices.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS WHO ARE CRITICAL WORKERS AND PARENTS/CARERS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Can my child still attend school during lockdown?

Yes. If you are a critical worker, or you are a parent/carer of a vulnerable child, then your child can still attend school. However, unlike the previous lockdown, we are asking that your child attends school **full-time Monday to Friday**. Not only do we hope that this will be helpful to you as critical workers who may have changing work patterns, but it will also help teachers planning for learning in class as they will know who is attending. This also brings a much better level of consistency.

If you are not sure if you are a critical worker, please see the letter I sent out on 04.01.21, which has a link to the critical worker and vulnerable children list, or click the link below.

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children)

What are the start and finish times for school?

We ask that children arrive at school for 8.30am and are picked up at 2.45pm. This will enable teachers to then



complete home-learning feedback as stated above.

I am a critical worker or parent of a vulnerable child. Must I send my child to school?

If your child is classed as a vulnerable child (See the Government list if unsure), our expectation is that they attend school full-time. If you do not intend to send your child in, then we must be informed so that we can determine if this is the best action for your child.

If you are a critical worker, your child can attend school. We ask that you let us know how you are a critical worker, this will help us in our record-keeping.

Can my child still have a school lunch?

Yes. However, we will not be providing hot school lunches. A packed lunch can be purchased in the same way as a hot dinner usually would be. Children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, who are attending school, can still request a packed lunch under the universal free school meals scheme at no cost. Children who are eligible for free school meals can also have a packed lunch provided free of charge, regardless of their year group. All other children will need to purchase a packed lunch from school if they would like one. However, all children are entitled to bring their own packed lunch to school daily.

Should my child come to school in school uniform?

Yes. We will still operate in school in the same way as before. That is, if you have PE or Outdoor Learning, your child should come to school wearing that kit, otherwise, they should attend school in full school uniform as normal.