

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well. I really can't believe we are nearly at the end of week four! It has certainly been another interesting week though!

I want to use this letter today, to once again thank you for your support with the remote learning that is happening at home. Talking to teachers, there is an enormous amount of work coming in to school through Google Classrooms and emails. We appreciate the efforts that are being made by all of you.

We completely understand that learning remotely at home is something that is new and we are all adjusting to. It is not ideal and there are difficulties surrounding this way of working, especially as you juggle life as well as support your children. So I want to try and reassure you that we do not expect you to have suddenly completed a three year teaching degree or a teaching assistant course. The best way you can support your child is to help them access their learning and get any pens etc. they need. The work they are set should be able to be completed as independently as possible. Some guidance might be needed with explanations, but you are not expected to sit with your child for the entirety of the day. In school, the children learn as independently as they can. The teacher will give input and then the children will work on their learning, supported as necessary.

Now, as a father myself, I am acutely aware that children will work better at school than at home. I wish they were all at school, but sadly that is not possible as we all know. I also know that some children will try everything not to work at the same standard at home as they might in school. So please be assured that whilst you know your children as your sons and daughters, we know your children as pupils. We all want them to do their best in effort and presentation, but that is to the best of their individual ability and that is all. If we don't think their work compares favourably to their usual standard in school, we will let them know – that is our job and we would do that if they were in the classroom. This is also the case when engaged in a zoom call. Children who need to check work or listen will be told to during a Zoom call just as they would if they were in class. Please feel free to remind your children that learning at home is not an option this time.

Thank you too, for the support you are giving the teachers with the Zoom sessions. All the teachers are working very hard to keep in touch with the children and to try and teach simultaneously to children at home as well as in the classroom. There are the usual wifi issues and technological problems but generally it is working well. Again, in these moments, you can go and get a cuppa and put your feet up. Children will not always engage with those sessions in the same way if parents are watching over them. This is because children will behave differently in the classroom when with their teachers, compared to when they are at home with you! Again, take it from a Dad!

I will be writing to the children separately to remind them of their behaviour and expectations when on Zoom, but I want to thank all of you who have signed the safety agreement I sent out via Google Classrooms. This document is important as it sets out our expectations for when the children are interacting via Zoom. I think some people have had problems accessing them so I will send them out again with this letter. If you have already sent this form in, then there is no need to do so again. I do apologise for another set of consent forms, but we are trying to keep up with the requirements and once we have them, if we enter another period of lockdown, we will have all the



consents needed for the future.

I want to just stress again that we do understand that life happens and that with the best will in the world it is not going to be possible for everything to be completed each day. If this is the case, that is fine. All we would ask is a little note to explain that things have been difficult. Without that note, it would be understandably reasonable to expect the teacher to question where it is. Please tell the teachers via Google Classroom though and not just me, as I don't always see the teachers instantly to tell them.

Please remember to look after your mental well-being. The whole country is trying to do what we and you are doing and we are succeeding together in many different ways. What we do at Westbury will be different to what other school do, because they will have a different context for their school. We do not expect the children to be spending unreasonable amounts of time to complete each activity. When they have done an hour or so on a task, stop. Upload the work that has been done and move on to the next task. I am aware that many schools use Google Classrooms. We chose this platform because our local secondary school uses the same system. Our hope is that if you are having problems with uploading and you have children in secondary school that use Google classroom, then ask them to help with uploading. Also, if you are struggling to access work because you have not got a printer, please let us know and we will print it out for you to collect at the office. That really is not a problem.

You are all doing an amazing job, but please don't put unnecessary pressure on yourself and remember that we are here to support you. I can't stress enough how grateful we all are for what you are doing at home and for the feedback you are giving us. We will not get it right all the time but we try to. We are constantly reviewing your feedback and looking for ways to do things differently to support the children.

With warmest wishes to you all,

David Crunkhurn
Headteacher

