

Teaching and Learning in Term 3 and access to school places

Dear Parents and Carers,

School places:

You are aware that children of critical workers and vulnerable children are prioritised for school places. **Where your child can be cared for at home, we encourage you to keep them at home.** This is to protect your family and so that we can protect the class bubbles as much as possible. As a last resort, where we cannot staff the class bubble (e.g. due to illness or isolation), the bubble will close and we want to avoid that.

The numbers in school are capped at 8 in Early Years and 15 in other classes due to our risk assessment. Information will be gathered from parents regarding need of places in the event of numbers rising and having to prioritise places for children who cannot be cared for at home during the school day. At the moment, we can accommodate all the current children who need places.

Priority will be given as follows:

1. Children of critical worker where the parent (s) does not work at home
2. Children with EHCP or social care involvement
3. Children of critical worker where the parents (s) work at home
4. Children who do not have access to technology (paper based alternatives will be put in place first)

Class 2 at Steam Mills is close to the maximum number of children allowed on some days, therefore a form will be sent home with those children shortly, so that we can prioritise places.

Starting on Friday 8th January, we need 24 hour notice for any **additional** children needing places (i.e. those who have not been in this week.)

Teaching and Learning:

This lockdown is not the same as before for staff or for parents. From March to June, schools provided care provision in school and links to home learning activities, which were optional. In June and July, teachers taught some year groups and provided links to home learning activities, which were optional. From September to December, teachers have been teaching normally and provided a closely matched remote curriculum to individual children who had to isolate. Now, schools are set up for providing substantial remote learning, with an expectation that parents can facilitate it.

All staff are currently in school for their normal hours to facilitate this remote learning and to provide for those in school. Teachers will stay in close contact with you via email and via regular phone calls if your child is at home all the time. There will be teething problems over the next few weeks, but all staff are keen to support you as much as possible so please stay in contact. We have a limited stock of laptops/ipads at the moment and are working hard to ensure these can be loaned out.

We appreciate that some of you are trying to work from home as well as home-school. We know that there will be technology difficulties, but will help where we can. We are acting on new information coming in (eg about data allowance) and will update you regularly. Teachers are providing a mixture of activities, some of which can be done independently. Please do not worry if your child cannot complete all the tasks.

Your child's teacher has mapped what would usually be taught in Term 3 to a range of resources, including direct video teaching via the Oak National Academy, which is the Government's preferred resource. Teachers will not be live-streaming lessons or recording their own lessons as this is already on offer through the Oak Academy. However, they are very keen to set up zoom sessions, so please read the Zoom protocol attached carefully and please communicate with us immediately if you have any concerns.

Children who come to school will follow the same remote learning planning and activities as those at home, supported by their usual class bubble staff.

The school has provided remote learning in a timetable format to make it easier for parents whose children are in school on same days and not others. However, please do not worry about sticking to the times or days if you can't-it is for guidance only. We absolutely understand that some parents are working from home and need to be flexible.

Zoom Protocol

Zoom is password-protected but additional safeguarding and data protection protocol must be adhered to:

Staff:

- Use a new meeting room each time
- Send the link via school based email/eschool
- Do not Zoom individual children
- Only Zoom from school and during the school day
- Remember data protection; make sure nothing confidential is showing on your screen
- Where possible, have a second member of staff present
- Don't allow attendees to join before host
- Mute attendees on joining
- Use the waiting room and admit one by one
- Be aware that the zoom link may have been copied and shared without your knowledge, so check everyone as you admit them (check their face- not just name with blank screen)
- Turn screen sharing off
- Don't record or take/share a screenshot of everyone
- Don't share personal information
- Turn off your video and microphone, until it's needed.
- Remember that anyone could record or screenshot without your knowledge

Parents/children:

- A parent/carer must be with their present at all times
- The Zoom should take place in a child's 'public' room e.g. lounge/kitchen not bedroom
- Parents/children will agree to respect privacy and be respectful at all times
- Don't record or take/share a screenshot of everyone
- Do not in any circumstances share the zoom link sent to you by school