



## BORINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



COURTLAND CRESCENT, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH PL7 4HJ  
Tel: 01752 330424 Email: [admin@boringdon.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:admin@boringdon.plymouth.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr J C SCALES BEd (Hons) NPQH

*We take pride in everything we do.*

Dear Fellow Parents,

I hope you are all safe and well. Unfortunately, the return to school after the Christmas period has not been quite as we all anticipated. We are all having to adjust to new and vastly changing platforms for home learning and working.

I write as both a parent and as the Chair of Governors when I extend my thanks and gratitude to all the teachers and staff at school who have worked with very minimal notice and technical constraints to place some excellent learning material online. As some children are still attending school, this means that teachers are having to deliver each lesson twice and produce the material in two different formats. For those of us at home supporting our child(ren) with their learning we can certainly appreciate the skills, patience and incredible aptitude that our teachers demonstrate every day.

School staff continue to put themselves at risk while assisting with the efforts in managing this global pandemic. I am sure we can all recognise that their efforts are going beyond what is called for under normal circumstances.

The teachers have spent hours putting together learning resources to send home and they have done, and continue to do, their very best. They are working long hours and undertaking work outside of their comfort zones to video record content to enable as much remote learning as possible. The planning, preparation and pre-recording are highly time consuming. Staff are doing all that they can.

On the topic of live lessons, I know that the absence of such is of concern to some parents, and I understand that concern. I would reassure you that the school's approach to home learning is in line with Ofsted recommendations. Further, there are many potential issues with the delivery of live lessons. Besides the obvious safeguarding concerns, the lessons would be at a set time, which may not work for parents who are working from home. The flexibility of the current set up is of some benefit if you have work calls and zoom meetings to attend to. Further, as I am sure you can appreciate, not all children learn at the same pace. In a classroom, with the support of teaching assistants, teachers can identify this and tailor the learning experience to each child. This is not possible via live lessons. The lesson cannot be paused, and a teacher cannot identify children who may be struggling. There would be a greater onus on us as parents to sit with and assist our children at a time and pace that we are not in control of.

I fully appreciate that trying to home-school children and hold down a demanding job working from home is an impossible task. Please make contact with your child(ren)'s teachers if you need some support for your child(ren). Teachers are actively working to respond to messages and calls throughout the day. We are also very fortunate to have an excellent pastoral team who are ready and waiting to help you too.





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We are likely all setting expectations of ourselves that are too high in this current situation. We need to be kind to ourselves, as we would others. You are doing enough. You are loving the children in your care and supporting them through the most difficult circumstances. Look after yourself. Minimising stressors as much as possible at this time is vital for mental health; please don't let remote learning be the something that causes a great deal of stress. Please accept what is in your control - as the primary educator at the moment, this is your call. The teachers make the provision of resources and the framework/structure to the lessons, it is really up to you how best your individual situation lends itself to its undertaking. Some days will be better than others and that is OK. The school will continue to build on the provision and fix any teething problems as we go along. It is understood that the children's social interaction and mental health is an important issue to consider. This is a learning curve for us all and each family has very individual circumstances.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support towards the school, staff and continuing education at home. These are exceptionally difficult times and we are all doing our bit to get through the best that we can. I wish you all continued good health and welcome any communication for the Governing Body via the office email address.

Very best wishes,

Mrs V Sargeant  
Chair of Governors

