

# New Close News

8th January 2021

Head Teacher - Mrs L Kilminster

Dear Parents

This week has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging for all of us within the New Close community. Like all of you, we were not aware that schools were going to close at such short notice until we listened to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we raced to sort how to organise our Critical Worker children and get remote teaching up and running for those at home. I would also like to thank the staff who have worked at pace and altered their normal roles considerably to enable this to happen.

We are taking our statutory duty to provide meaningful remote learning to all pupils very seriously. Organising remote learning for pupils takes considerably longer than teaching face-to-face. In order to achieve high quality remote learning for all pupils, our teachers must work solely on planning and making the necessary lessons and resources. This includes daily live teaching to groups of pupils. Teachers are responding to pupils with prompt advice and they will monitor pupil participation in lessons. We have been delighted to receive such positive feedback from many of you about the quality of what we are providing. We appreciate that supporting home learning is a challenge and many of you are having to do this alongside working from home. This is a partnership and we welcome any comments about your experiences and thoughts on how we can improve what we are doing. Please contact your child's class teacher via email if you have any comments. Access to technology continues to cause issues for some families. Please get in contact if you are experiencing difficulties. We will endeavour to support where possible.

Our teaching assistants are providing care for the Critical Worker children and they are accessing the same remote education as the children at home. Class teaching assistants will also begin pastoral phone calls to all families next week, these will continue weekly throughout lockdown. This is an opportunity for you to share how your child is getting on with their learning, any concerns you might have and give your child a chance to talk to the teaching assistant too.

We of course hope that this situation comes to an end quickly and our children return to the stability of schooling, which we know is so important for them. For now the priority remains to reduce transmission within the community by keeping children at home safely, wherever possible. For those children who are in school, because parents are critical workers, we continue to follow our COVID risk assessments.

Thank you in advance for all your support and please do keep in contact if you need support in any way.

Kind regards

Mrs Kilminster

## Emailing work to class teachers

Please remember to email your child's work to their class teacher at the end of the school day.

Where possible please send it as one email as it is easier for us to respond.

If you email us later in the evening it is likely that we will not be able to respond until the morning.

## PE LESSONS

Please can the children who are in school, wear their PE kit to school as follows:

KS1 bubble (excluding nursery): every Tuesday

KS2 bubble: every Friday



Below is a link to vacancies within the Acorn Education Trust:

<https://acorneducationtrust.com/job-vacancies>.



You can now follow and like us on our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with what's happening in school...

[www.facebook.com/newclose.school](https://www.facebook.com/newclose.school)

### Email addresses

[head@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:head@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

[office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Rabbit class - [ct@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ct@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Squirrel Class - [bs@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:bs@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Otter class - [he@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:he@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Fox class - [ll@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ll@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)  
[lk@newclose.wiltssch.uk](mailto:lk@newclose.wiltssch.uk)

### House Points

From Monday we will begin to collate 'Lockdown House Points'. Children will be receiving house points for work returned via email and good work/contributions in live sessions.

Children in school will receive these points too. Class teachers will keep a tally of points and children will be rewarded with certificates on their return.

### **Nursery and Reception Places**

If you, or anyone else you know, is looking for places in Nursery or are starting school in September 2021 please get in touch with us via the school office.

We are not able to offer school tours at the moment but we are organising virtual tours and telephone calls with Mrs Kilminster and Mrs Turner.

**The deadline for Reception 2021 applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

## **Primary School Admissions 2021**

For the attention of all parents  
Will your child be four years old before  
September 2021?

**You must apply for a primary  
school place**

[Apply online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

The deadline for applications is  
Midnight 15th January 2021