

Weekly Bulletin

January 15th 2021



Coronavirus through the eyes of one of our 4 year olds

Thank you all for not only your support but also your flexibility in coping with what has been an intense and concerning week, both in education and more globally. I know that change can be difficult for everyone, especially for some of our young people – as well as for parents and education staff. Nevertheless, we have collectively managed a move to a different form of education as positively as possible, and despite some teething problems in some areas, we are now fairly well established in both remote and on-site provision.

For parents who are worried about their children's learning, please remember that children are often learning more than we realise. You are, and always have been, your child's first and most influential teacher. If you decide that your child is going to spend the entire session playing in the garden, or baking then that is your right. There is nothing to feel guilty about whatsoever. Please bear in mind that the expectations set by the DfE for remote learning must be adhered to by the school, but this does not mean you have to complete it all. We are here to offer help and support where you need it. Teachers are sending home what is expected of them, but please do not interpret this as an expectation on your part. We have, however, been blown away by the children's attendance at our live lessons this week.

I would like to pay huge tribute to the hard work of our staff and pupils, and to parents, for your support in helping us move rapidly to full "remote education" over the course of the week. I absolutely acknowledge the additional burden the closure of school buildings to most students has placed on many of you. We will do all we can to support and keep students engaged in their learning. As always, we will continue to keep in touch and update you on any important information over the coming weeks.

IMPORTANT contact school immediately if you or your child has symptoms, whether or not your child is attending the school site

Phone **01763 260432**; email head@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk

Family Support

Following a recent change in advice from the Government, our children eligible for Free School Meals who are not in school, will again be receiving food vouchers in their email inbox.

CHECK NOW.... is your child eligible for Additional School Funding? - use this [speedy checking tool](#).

Technology Troubles

We are aware that some families have limited access to IT resources and broadband for a whole variety of reasons, making it potentially difficult to access our remote learning provision. We are working with local charities and the Local Authority to find a way to provide devices where necessary.

We have some Vodafone Sim cards in school, which give you 30G of free data for 3 months. Ideally, the SIMs will be put into a connected laptop or tablet – or into a smartphone to tether to a laptop or tablet – making it easier to do schoolwork. Let us know if you would like this support.

Welcome to our New Staff

We welcome **Sally D'Allesandro** as our new Preschool Assistant. Sally is an extremely passionate level 3 qualified Early Years professional. The experiences she plans will always have our child's needs and interests at the centre. Sally has come to us with 9 years in Early Years Management.

Rebecca Briggs also joined us this term as our newest Teaching Assistant. Rebecca is currently working in the Swift and Wren class critical worker group and seems to have found her feet incredibly quickly.

New faces in school, and on Osprey and Kite live lessons this week are **Miss King** and **Miss Peters** our teaching students from the Faculty of Education. I am sure that you will see more of them as the term continues.

Make it a Happier New Year for children and young people in care

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but even more so for the children and young people who go in to 2021 without a stable home and loving family. This New Year we are looking for people who are determined, energetic and caring, to become foster carers.

Fostering with Cambridgeshire County Councils means you are fostering with a local authority that truly cares about you and our children. We offer comprehensive training courses both before and during your fostering adventure with us. We also allocate a social worker who will support you and we also provide a 24/7 helpline so you will never feel alone! So whether you are single, married, retired, working or a full time parent to a birth child YOU CAN FOSTER! Make this a happier New Year for our children and young people. To find out more, call 0800 052 0078, email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering

From the team at Meldreth Primary School...we wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!