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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

6th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the start of our first day of virtual learning, I just wanted to make contact with you and offer some reassurance during this challenging time.

I absolutely understand how stressful it must be for some parents. I am in awe of you coping with the balancing act of home learning whilst trying to carry on with your own work commitments. I would much prefer your children to be here at school, however with the increase of Covid cases, it is best to be as safe as we possibly can.

Keyworker children

The teachers were ready to welcome the keyworker children into school today. We have had an unusual number of requests and would ask you to reconsider sending your children into school if it is at all possible for them to stay at home. If you are able to work from home, or you have a family member at home, your children should be at home. We are struggling to meet the needs of all our parents. The larger the number of children we have in school, the greater the increase in risk to both the children and our teaching staff. Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience if you are able to help.

Virtual learning

As there are two teachers per year group, whilst one teacher takes responsibility for the learning of keyworker children, the other teacher plans up to three hours of lessons daily and provides feedback and marking for the whole year group. Unfortunately we are unable to provide live lessons for your children. The main reason is that children at home may have to share laptops with siblings and even parents. Therefore we have opted for a more interactive approach through video when appropriate. We will keep to a routine with lessons, so that your children know what to expect. We plan to continue with our intended curriculum as much as possible.

Children's work is set according to their ability, meeting individual needs. Therefore all children should be able to access the learning. Your children's work will be marked daily. If for any reason it isn't, it will be marked the following day. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact the class teacher via email through the school office. However, this should only be as a last resort and they may take time to respond as they will be carrying out their teaching responsibilities.

In order for children to interact with each other, I am aware a lot of parents are organising Zoom chats with their friends.

Finally, parents please try not to worry. There is always anxiety when starting something new – and at such short notice! Hopefully it will become easier as the days go by. We are committed to providing the very best for your children under the circumstance. More than ever, we look forward to better times when we can welcome all your children back into school.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tracy Thomas'.

T Thomas (Mrs)
Headteacher