



11 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good weekend. As things change so quickly at the moment, my updates may now be more than once a week and may be on different days as I will contact you as I have information that you need.

We want to thank you for how you supported your children at home with their learning last week - please let us know if you need further support. We hope that all children will engage with this as much as possible. We are reviewing our home learning regularly.

With the sudden lockdown news last week, we can appreciate the tremendous pressure and anxiety you may be feeling, especially if you are having to work from home and juggle work with supporting your child with their learning. It's not easy and it's not something any of us want.

We can all do what we can do though, with our best efforts at the heart of it, and we all endeavour to do what is right for our whole school community. Last week you had to totally adapt your lives at home just as we in school had to adapt again and set up another new 'normal' after expecting to be in school as usual last Tuesday. After only four days of lockdown last week, you will probably have seen that the media is full of opinions about education and there are some very strong and very conflicting views. I receive almost daily updates from the government, and I will of course let you know of any changes that are relevant.

There seems to be no template or perfect blueprint for education at the moment and every school community has a unique character and will work in different ways. Things can change overnight (as we saw last Monday) and we have to constantly adapt to ever changing information, guidelines and of course 'on the ground' situations for the community within school day each day. It seems that we can't plan long term at the moment as we don't know what each week will bring.

Communication

- You will receive a phone call this week so that teachers can check in with the children and catch up with them to see how they are. I am sure you will appreciate that we can't actually pre-book times as we did for parents' evening calls as staff are working in school as well as remotely so they will need to make calls when they are not online chatting or marking or when they can take a break from working with our children in school.
- If you need to speak to a teacher at any other time, then please use the homelearning@kcs.bwmat.org to ask them – they will endeavour to get back to you.
- For issues other than home learning then please use the office email as usual. (office hours 8.30 am -3.30 pm)
- In these anxious times I will be checking the office emails myself each day at the weekend for any safeguarding issues or if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported. Non-urgent emails will be picked up on Monday morning as usual

Home Learning Update

- We are seeing a good response so far on Teams which is great. If you are experiencing any technical issues, then please contact us and we will try and help you.
- Our updated Remote Learning Strategy will be on the school website by 25 January in our COVID information section. This will reflect any changes we have made since the Autumn Term and things we are learning this term so far.
- Following the most recent government guidance, schools must consider their individual situation, staffing capacity and wider community needs when doing this. All schools will have a different offer and our offer will be put before the governing body to approve before 25 January.
- We are also now looking at setting up a 'live' meeting each week with each class as a circle time / check – in session using Microsoft Teams. I will let you know once we are ready to go as we need to sort out a timetable for this, taking into account our families' situations, staffing availability and safeguarding for pupils and staff but we should be ready for next week.
- We will be contacting parents if there has been no home-learning done as yet, not in a negative way or to pressurise any parent but to support and to offer help if necessary. Please contact us if you are experiencing any difficulties via homelearning@kcs.bwmat.org

Keeping safe on Teams.

- Please do supervise your child on TEAMS where possible.
- If you need to speak to a teacher about any wider aspects of remote learning, then I ask you kindly please use the home learning email homelearning@kcs.bwmat.org *FAO class teacher* rather than the online chat or the office email please.
- The online chat can be seen by all the children and should only be used by the children for greetings/children to talk to the teacher or each other about specific learning tasks or to ask for support/feedback/guidance. (For younger pupils, parents may need to type for them)
- If we are concerned about any misuse of the chat function then those messages will be removed and we reserve the right to withdraw the function if we are further concerned.
- Staff will respond to the children as quickly as they can on Teams chat - bear with them as they need breaks, of course, and they are also on rota in school with our 3 key worker bubbles.

The key thing for our school community is that we stay safe and support each other through these times. My word for this term is definitely 'kindness'. These are fragile times for everyone, but I think that whatever we need to say or do whether it be positive or negative, we try and do it with kindness; that way we will build each other up and provide much needed care and support for each other as each week or even each day brings new challenges

My thanks to the staff as always for their dedication and hard work and their support for each other. I want also to thank those parents who are sending in positive comments - thank you - it means so much!

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

Kind Regards

Mrs Thomson
Headteacher