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Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents

I am so disappointed to be writing to you again this week under these circumstances. Staff had spent the Inset Day on Monday preparing for the return of all the children, and were devastated when plans had to change. At our County Head's Briefing this week, the figures we saw showed that the number of positive Covid cases in Bucks are up by 20% from last week.

### School Organisation

We have over 80 children in across the school. We had been looking at grouping two year groups together, (Yrs 1 and 2, 3 and 4 etc,) but we would have had nearly whole class size groups and that would not have kept anyone here safe. So, we have one class per year group and one teacher in each group. This teacher isn't 'directly' teaching the class as they are setting and responding to Seesaw for their class learning from home too. For those children in school, the teacher will set and explain some of the class work, but the lessons are then supervised and covered by Teaching Assistants. The work the children are doing in school is covering the same things as is being set on Seesaw.

You may see that the other year group teacher is responding to work your child has posted and this is because your child's teacher is in school. These staff still have to do break and lunch duties as well as setting class work for those children who are here and so can't be online all the time. This does mean, that in some circumstances, one teacher might be overseeing nearly 40 children online.

I will be monitoring pupil numbers in school, and if I feel the numbers are starting to pose a risk to staff and pupils, the current organisation may have to change.

### Seesaw and Remote Learning

We have chosen Seesaw as we felt it gave a good balance of resources and it is child friendly. We have also tried to take into account that many of you are working from home and so need flexibility to do the work at different times throughout the day. We do not expect all the work to be done on line. The work can be completed on paper and then just a photo taken and uploaded to Seesaw. If you need an exercise book for your child to use, contact the school office and we will arrange a time for you to come and collect one. Then you can take a photo of the work in the exercise book and upload it.

There has already been some excellent work being completed by the children which has been good to see.

## BBC TV

As you may have heard, BBC TV is to help children keep up with their studies during this lockdown by broadcasting lessons on BBC Two and CBBC, as well as online. The BBC will show curriculum-based programmes on television from Monday. They will include three hours of primary school programming every weekday on CBBC. The primary programmes, which will be broadcast on CBBC from 09:00 every day, will include BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch.

This is an additional resource parents/carers can use at home, especially when you may have more than one child, or have to work from home yourselves and are not able to access the remote learning.

Please access the following link to find out more. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-55552962>

## 'Live' Lessons

I know some schools are conducting live lessons, but at the moment we are not going to do that. We will never find a time that suits everyone, even if we have a set time each week, for some families that time will never work. Live lessons do not mean, especially for the younger children, that an adult won't need to be present to make sure they are listening and can still do the work. The teacher teaching the lesson will not be able to help all of those taking part, and if a great many have asked questions, the time will have gone.

Remote learning can never replicate how we teach in school, and we are still in the early stages of using it in this country. I am happy to change what we do, when I can see that something isn't working for most people (including staff!), but you have to remember your personal circumstances will be different to every other family.

Initially will be holding weekly class Zoom catch up sessions and will send out times/dates and links when these have been set up.

We have offered weekly packs of work for children if they cannot access Seesaw. These are not to be done along with the work on Seesaw – the children do one or the other. Packs will need to be collected each Monday from the school office, and the work completed handed in. If a picture can be taken and uploaded on seesaw that can be done but please don't get your child do then do the similar task online too.

If the work is completed on paper and returned when the new pack of work is collected it will be marked and then returned the following week. The teachers cannot mark the work on the day it is returned to be collected the following day – we are trying to reduce what comes in and out from homes to school and you shouldn't be making unnecessary journeys.

The teachers are legally entitled to PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time) and this varies in length depending on the number of days they teach. During normal times, this time has to be taken out of class, and this is when the class is covered by another member of staff. The teachers will still need time to plan and prepare work, and so when they are taking this time, they will make an

announcement on Seesaw. You will then know that during this time they will not be responding to any comments or questions on Seesaw.

Everyone is having to adapt to the current circumstances. Everybody's circumstances are different and that does include school staff too; we do have staff with family members who are very ill from Covid or are themselves ill. I think the most important thing at the moment is to be kind to each other, look after each other and keep each other safe.

I will keep in regular contact with you and I hope that school can return to some form of normal as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely

K.Gwynn

