



Dear Families,

Happy New Year

I hope that everyone is safe and well. I know some families and staff are self-isolating and I wish you all well. Today we reopened to children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

For those attending

We have a team of volunteers in school but quite limited numbers of staff in reserve. As we are operating in much more tightly controlled "bubbles" I have no flexibility to move staff between groups midweek should staff not be available.

If I find we are short of staff I may have no option but to close a bubble at short notice.

Please make a backup plan in place just in case this happens.

Home learning

We have 6 groups across the school which means 6 teachers are teaching face to face. The home learning is being organised by other teachers in the year group. Again this is subject to staff remaining well.

Home learning is starting from today- please let us know how you find it. It is building on what we provided last time.

A general learning newsletter will be out by early next week which will include answers to questions you have been asking in phone calls and our expectations in terms of your child's involvement in home learning.

This will also give an overview of the term's learning.

Access to online learning may be an issue- please let us know if you need passwords or login details- do not wait...

Access to devices and data may be an issue.

This morning I had a kind offer of a cash donation to begin a fund to purchase devices for disadvantaged families. We would happily receive donations if anyone felt able to do so- OR even more practical would be any pre loved tablets or lap tops that could be passed on.

Mobile and internet providers are beginning to make things easier and cheaper. We are looking at the new scheme until then this info might help save money or increase data allowances:

The BT one is £10.07 a month and includes phone and broadband

<https://btplc.com/inclusion/ProductsAndServices/BTBasic/BTBasicBroadband/index.htm>

For existing virgin customers who receive universal credit. It does not include a phone line or TV and costs £15/month <https://www.virginmedia.com/help/register-for-essential-broadband>

<https://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2020/08/virgin-media-uk-launch-cheap-15mbps-broadband-for-universal-credit-users.html>

TV deals that might save money:

Roku Express stick (costing £17 to £30 one off, depending on current offers), which plugs into a TV, gives lots of free options for streaming TV, e.g. iPlayer and all4 and/or can be used with e.g. a Prime or Netflix subscription to stream popular paid services on the TV at a much lower cost than a lot of broadband packages that include a TV subscription and a box, You can order a Roku express stick from Argos or the Roku website <https://www.roku.com/en-gb/>)

I am not recommending these just sharing info (other deals may be/are available)

Thank you again for your support

Sarah & Staff