



8th January 2021

## Newsletter

### A note from the Headteacher

Happy New Year and welcome back! Not quite the start to the term that we were all hoping for but I am very pleased to say that we have quickly adapted to a combination of in-school and remote learning thanks to the tremendous efforts of all the staff. Thank you for being patient while we organised everything and for all of you who have taken the time to pass on your thanks. We really do appreciate it!

As everyone readjusts to a new 'bubbled' school learning approach or remote learning there may be slight teething problems, so please do get in touch if you have any questions or if there is anything we can help with.

Current indications are that this period of lockdown will continue until at least February half-term. As always, I will contact you immediately if I am informed of any changes to our provision.

### Critical Workers

The DfE's guidance clarifies critical workers as being **'parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response...parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'**

If you have currently accepted a critical worker place at school we ask that you give full and careful consideration to this guidance and the necessity of taking a place. The new list of critical workers has resulted in Wisborough Green accepting far more children than during the previous lockdown period, making it more difficult for us to maintain small bubble sizes. Obviously the safety of our children and staff is paramount and a reduction in numbers would assist in taking every measure possible to ensure that we can continue to do that. The safest place for your child during the current phase of the pandemic is at home.

**If you are able to access alternative child care during this period, please relinquish your school place immediately and inform the office.**

**If anyone in the household is furloughed at any time by their employer, their child should also stay at home.** If your circumstances change, please let us know.

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## Remote Learning

In addition to the lessons and resources provided by school, I wanted to let parents and carers know about some national initiatives that may be helpful. In response to requests from schools, the BBC have announced the introduction of primary education programming from Monday (see Tweet below).



For anyone struggling with siblings sharing laptops, we have been informed that an X Box or PlayStation can also be used to access Google Classroom. Please follow the link below for instructions:

<https://www.pocket-lint.com/apps/news/google/155204-how-to-use-google-classroom-on-xbox-and-playstation>

Support is also now available for families experiencing issues with online learning due to lack of mobile data. As a school, we can request mobile data increases for children who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile.

Please contact us if you would like us to apply on your behalf.

## Staff Communication

A polite reminder that any questions or queries from parents or carers are to be communicated via the office email address and will be forwarded to teachers if required. Google classroom is primarily for children and teachers to set, complete and discuss learning tasks although we do appreciate that parents of younger children may need to do this on their child's behalf.

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## Welcome



We would like to welcome Miss Grand, our new Year 1 teacher, to Wisborough Green. We are so pleased that she had an opportunity to meet her class on Monday! We would also like to welcome two new children to our school in Years 3 and 6.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

To support these activities, Public Health England have produced [guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#). This includes key actions they can take to support their child or young person's mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic such as supporting safe ways to connect with friends.

It also emphasises the importance of children continuing to remain fit and active and having the 60 minutes of daily physical activity recommended by the Chief Medical Officers. Please see your child's Google Classroom page for suggested physical activities.

## Thank you

All the staff would like to pass on their thanks to the children and parents for their lovely Christmas cards and presents. We were pleased that, with the help of families and the PTA, our children were still able to experience many of the Christmas traditions.

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