



8 January 2021

God declares, I know you and I have plans for your prosperity and a future filled with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Parents

What a start to the New Year and certainly not what I expected it to be! We have all had to make sudden adjustments to our lives following the government announcement on Monday which placed the country into another full lockdown. You and your families are all dealing with a wide range of issues and I would like to thank you sincerely for the support you have given to the school over this past week. Your messages of appreciation and thanks have really boosted the staff whilst we begin to settle into a new way of teaching.

Remote Learning

Initial feedback from families has been really positive about our provision for learning during this new lockdown. We realise that there have been some teething issues with the children accessing our online lessons but I am hopeful that the vast majority of those are now resolved. If you are still having problems, please get in touch and let us know.

I am very proud of our incredible staff team at Twyford who have worked together to put our online learning plans in place with virtually no notice. I am also very proud of our pupils for the way in how they have engaged in the lessons and risen to the challenge of a new way of learning seamlessly. Thank you for your role in making this happen.

The DfE have made it clear to schools that during this lockdown, teachers should continue to teach your children through signposting them to online resources such as videos, pre-recorded lessons or delivering live teaching sessions. There is more of an emphasis on 'continuing the curriculum' and learning new knowledge than there was during the national lockdown last year. Therefore, we need your support to enable children to access this. The teachers will be taking register each day and keeping track of who is accessing the lessons – either live or from the recordings. If your child is unable to attend lessons (e.g. through illness), please get in touch and let us know. From Monday, if your child has not attended any lessons during the day and we have not heard from you, we will be getting in touch to check that everything is okay.

If your child is in KS1 or 2, I would highly recommend spending a little bit of time over the weekend showing your child where to access work on the class 'stream' and also the in the 'classroom'. Once children are familiar with this they should be more independent in accessing the lessons and the learning, especially in KS2, resulting in some of the pressures on you being relieved.

It is important for children to have a break and movement time. Some family friends of mine are sending their children outside into the garden at 'lunchtime' for a play so that they can get some fresh air like they would do if they were in school.

There is no expectation that your child should be working for longer than they would during the school day. If you find that they are then please contact your class teacher.

Please be aware that if your child is not on mute when accessing a live lesson, we are able to hear not only what they are saying but also what other people nearby are saying, including parents. Therefore, please be mindful of the language you might use.



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Free School Meals

If you find that your family circumstances change during lockdown and you think your child might be eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Final thought of the week

Over this last week I have been reminded that the best laid plans do not always work out. I came across this quote which really struck a chord with me:

"Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere." (Erma Bombeck)

We are all having to live our lives differently to how we would wish at the moment. Therefore, when things do not go to plan please be kind to yourself, try not to worry, take a step back and give yourself some time to reassess so you can find a new way forward.

Stay safe and God bless



J Bloomfield

Judith Bloomfield
Headteacher



TERM DATES 2020/21

Spring Term 2021	Tuesday 5 th January 2021 Monday 22 nd February 2021	Friday 12 th February 2021 Thursday 1 st April 2021
Summer Term 2021	Monday 19 th April 2021 Monday 7 th June 2021	Friday 28 th May 2021 Wednesday 21 st July 2021
Autumn Term 2021	Thursday 2 nd September 2021 Monday 1 st November 2021	Friday 22 nd October 2021 Friday 17 th December 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020/2021		
Thursday 14th January		Latest date for returning a paper application for Primary Schools Sept 2021 entry
Friday 15th January		Portal closes at midnight for Primary School Reception Applications Sept 2021 entry
Friday 12th February		School breaks up for half-term
Monday 22nd February		School re-opens after half-term
Thursday 1st April		Spring Term Ends
Friday 16th April		National Primary School allocation day
Monday 19th April		Summer Term starts
Tuesday 20th April	New	Class photos
Monday 17th to Thursday 20th May		Bikeability Level 1 & 2 Course for Year 5
Friday 28th May		School breaks up for half-term
Monday 7th June		School re-opens after half-term
Wednesday 21st July		Summer Term ends
Wednesday 1st September	New	INSET Day
Thursday 2nd September	New	Autumn Term starts