



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 15

DATE: 08/01/2021

Love, Learn, Share, Care - We are God's children doing God's work

Our Christian Value for this half term is ENDURANCE

It has been quite a week. All staff have really stepped up to the mark and switched to teaching in class and on-line at the same time. This is a huge challenge as it is like trying to do three jobs at once: teaching a class of children, teaching virtually with technology and communicating with parents who are struggling or having trouble logging on. It is an almost impossible task and we thank you for your patience as staff become more adept at managing and juggling all the balls at once. It is vital that children join lessons at the correct time as there is huge interruption to teaching when staff have to stop teaching to admit children. We realise that many of you are working from home and joining the zoom lessons is hard with more than one child. If it is too much for you, the work is placed on the hub and children are able to download the work and do it without the zoom sessions at a later time that is convenient to you.

Parents were not under such pressure for children to work under the previous lockdown, but due to the government expectations about what we must provide the pressure is on all of us including parents. All that anyone can expect is that we all do our best.

All schools are under so much more pressure than the previous lockdown as this time there are huge numbers of children in school as compared to the previous lockdown. We have been directed to admit all children of Critical Workers (even if they work from home), children who have SEND and children who come under the government vulnerable list. We are currently running at 40% of our usual capacity. The school has been risk assessed to decide how many children can safely be accommodated in each room to afford staff some level of social distancing. I am well aware that not all CW parents have all the sessions they requested, but I cannot exceed the maximum numbers set, as this will put staff health at real risk during this peak of the pandemic. Staff are focussed on their work and ignoring the personal risk to themselves. Some parents groups have worked very proactively to distribute CW places where they are needed most. They have shared with each other through social media groups if they have not got the CW places they need and others have given up their places to support other Critical Workers in their child's year group.

We understand how hard it is for parents trying to work from home and support children with learning when they are not CW, however we are not allowed to admit children unless they are children of CW, SEND or formally identified as vulnerable. We have no say in the groups of children that can be admitted and school is formally closed to all other children. We realise that this feels so unfair to people who cannot access teaching in school, but our hands are tied, as we have to put in place the legislation of government.

Breakfast and After School Club

If your child is in school having been allocated a place, their sessions for Out of School care are also reserved for them. You will be charged for all the sessions your children are usually booked in for if your child/children has/have a place in school during the school day. If your child is not attending school you will not be charged for wrap around care- invoices will be adjusted.