

CANON POPHAM C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

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Headteacher: Mrs A. Navas Chair of Governors: Mr C. Mitchell



Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy week in school and the snow has added to the interest. Whilst many schools are closed today we have done our best to remain open in order to support those parents who are key workers and have told us that they need the provision.

Thank you for your continued support. Here are a few updates that we hope you will find useful.

Children in School- places for key worker children.

As you may be aware from Local Authority communications this week, the numbers of key workers accessing school are very significantly higher than back in March. As a school community we want to do all we can to support parents, carers and families through this difficult time. Currently we have about 40% of pupils accessing key worker and vulnerable children provision. It is the policy of DSAT, and follows government guidance, that we **must** consider the risk assessment and safety of pupils and staff in school. Therefore, it may now be necessary for us to place any **new** applications for key worker children on a waiting list for a place in provision. This is line with many other schools who are dealing with bigger numbers of children, whilst trying to keep everyone safe.

If you have a child who is accessing provision but could be at home for at least some of the days, we would be grateful if you could let us know, so that on days when you might be able to keep your child at home, it can release places for other children and families who may need it.

Remote Learning updates.

Many thanks for your fantastic response to supporting your children's learning at home. The great news is that across school we have over 95% of children joining in their lessons every day. In some classes the figure has been 100% so thank you. This means that children are keeping going with their learning, and once we are able to return to learning together in school, children will not have to catch up so much.

School is open today from 11:30am, as planned for you to get your children's first learning packs back to us so that we can assess your children's work and pick up the new packs for the next 2 weeks. We hope that you may enjoy getting out into the fresh air and having a snowy walk to school to collect your pack from the same place as previously- your usual class entrance point. This week we have reviewed the remote learning package and are looking to improve this. Over the next 2 weeks we will be looking to introduce a work sharing platform called 'Seesaw' where you will be able to share your child's work directly with the teacher more easily. This will allow staff to assess how the class are doing and adapt their teaching based on what they see from the work. Look out for further information coming out soon.

Bug Club and Times Tables Rockstars/ Numbots

Many thanks to everyone who is ensuring that your child is accessing these programmes and keeping going with their reading and number facts/ times tables. Developing these skills and knowledge is crucial to children's learning.

We know that many parents value children reading 'real' books. So do we! However, we are looking to balance children's 'real' books experiences and use of technology for reading. Bug Club also offers the opportunity for children to complete comprehension quizzes that enable us to assess their understanding of what they have read. This is a critical skill which Bug Club helps us to monitor.



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If you have any problems accessing these please give us a ring as we can help.

Staff Planning Preparation and Assessment (PPA) Time.

As you are no doubt aware, teaching staff have to access PPA time every week to support them in preparing lessons. At this time, when they are delivering teaching to BOTH remote learners and those in school their PPA time is more vital than ever. Due to us having limited staffing resources and in line with many other schools both across DSAT and more widely, from next week (starting on Thursday 21st January) the afternoon zoom lessons for Thursday afternoons ONLY will not be live lessons. This is to enable staffing to be freed up to allow key workers to be supported in school and for teaching staff to access their PPA time.

All other live lessons will continue as planned and work will be set for children to complete each Thursday afternoon, so their learning will continue. However, the live afternoon teaching for Thursday afternoons only will not take place.

Assembly Time

For the first 2 weeks we have concentrated on establishing the remote learning routine. However, starting next Monday I will be recording a daily assembly. The recording will be put on the school website each day so that you can watch it at a time to suit you and your family. The children in school will also watch it so that we can come together in a way, to have our whole school assembly time. I hope you will enjoy it!

As always, please take care and stay safe. If you need our help and support in any way please feel welcome to contact us by phone or e mail. We will help wherever we can.

Mrs Navas



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