



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement &amp; Enjoyment

Headteacher: Mr S Bowsher



## Headteacher's Comment:

Happy New Year! A week ago it was New Year's Day and it seems like a long time since then. Even though this is the first News and Views of the year it is at least the third time I have written to you in 2021, but I'm not sure I have actually said Happy New Year to you. I normally do an assembly with the children at this time of year about the things that are new for the New Year, well this year a lot is new, not least that the majority of children are at home learning with you.

The lockdown we are in this time is not the same as the one we had in March. Firstly, we know a lot more about the virus, how to treat it and how to vaccinate against it. From the school's point of view, we had in place a plan for home learning in case we had to close for the majority of children and this is now in action.

Having children at home doing their learning is not always easy. In the first lockdown Mr Duff said it was a marathon not a sprint and the same applies this time. We are not doing this for two weeks, it is until at least half term. Some days will be better than others and some days the work will get done quicker than others. I speak from experience when I say that sometimes our children won't listen to us as parents when we try to help them with their work – me reminding my children I was a teacher and knew what I was talking about didn't seem to help!

One of the biggest changes from last time is the provision the school is providing. Each day children from Year 1 to Year 6 get a live lesson and there are recorded lessons for all in the other subjects. Each day there is a clear set of work to be done. This will hopefully make it easier for parents to help with the work and have a routine. Teachers are available throughout the day to respond to work or queries which should also help you at home. If your child is struggling or is unsure what to do, get in touch. Half of our teachers are in school each day teaching the critical worker children so are not able to respond straight away, but they will get back to you. The other half of the teachers are at home setting the learning, recording videos, teaching, marking and planning.

I'll stress what we have always said, if you need to juggle work, home learning and a number of children, put in place a routine that works for you. Juggling all these different responsibilities isn't easy so as long as the work is getting done at some point then that is what matters.

Our home learning plan will probably be adapted as we go on. The teachers are becoming more and more familiar with how to do the live lessons, what works for recorded lessons and what best engages the children and are always sharing best practice with each other. Similarly, you are finding what works for you. Teachers and the leadership team are monitoring who is engaging in the work and will support families to make sure all the work is being done. It is early days but the completion rate of work is very, very high. Well done to you all, you are doing a fantastic job.

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If you are struggling to get online please let us know. We have already given out a number of laptops and Wi-Fi routers to parents and will continue to do so where there is a need. We have used laptops from the school and spare ones from within the schools in the academy trust. The government are sending us some more and I have had contact from the Pilgrims Hatch Community Partnership who have offered us some laptops. Hopefully we will have enough for everyone who needs one.

From next week, those families whose children are not in school will also get a 'check-in' call from the class teacher once every two weeks. This is to discuss how home learning is going, how everyone is and to offer any support we can going forward with the work. It will be from an unknown number so look out for it.

We also continue to have a duty to safeguard our children. Just like we do when they are in school. Obviously safeguarding children online is going to be a big focus at the moment, but we will also continue to safeguard children and families who may need it in other ways. If you have any concerns about anything, need help, are struggling for food or simply want to talk to someone we are here every day, just get in touch.

I will finish by saying that we are all in this together. The reason most children are not in school is to stop the spread of the virus. We know from the end of term there were a number of cases in the school community that affected a lot of us. By staying at home that transmission will stop. The less people we have mixing in school the quicker this will happen. It is not going to be easy staying at home so much and only being allowed out for essential reasons but we need to do it for our community. I'm proud of how the community has responded in this first week of the lockdown. We are all in this together, lets work together and as a community we will come out of it stronger.

Have a safe weekend and a well-deserved rest – everyone has worked hard this week and you have all been amazing. Thank you.



## Stars of the Week

Star of the week will continue whilst we are in lockdown. Each class teacher is choosing a person who has been a star with the home learning and each year group bubble will choose a star of the week from those who are in the critical worker provision.

RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A
Ethan	Scarlett & Spencer	Daisy & Leon A	Eleanor	Harley	Claudia-Mae & Caleb	Courtney-Rose & Skye
3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA	
Gabriel	Zainab & Archie	Sam	Finlay	Joshua & Millie	Neavie Jane & Max	



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