



Pupils of the Week

Please see Class Dojo school story to find out why they have received these commendations

	Betty Bee Award	Wilbur Woodpecker Award	Olive Owl Award	Samuel Squirrel Award
Kingfishers	Hollie D Bronwyn	Jaxon	Hollie D	Hollie G
Jackdaws	Poppy	Sophie	Mia	
Ospreys	Rosie Jess Tamzyn	Olly Jasmine	Rosie Mollie	Diya
Head of School Award				
Hattie (Kingfishers class)				

Dear Parents

Does anyone else feel like they need a holiday? What a couple of weeks we have had: school open, school closed, “switching” to remote education, key workers, bubbles, rotas, visits, phone calls...

It seems that the whole country has just been expected to suddenly learn a new way of doing things. Teachers spend four years at university, learning how to teach children - in a classroom! Not filming themselves teaching and teaching via Zoom! This is all so crazy. You as parents are having to figure out how all these new things work as well. There are technology problems to deal with; space issues to figure out; timetables to follow and I have no doubt some behaviour matters to contend with! We do feel for you too.

Last week I sent out the Department for Education expectations for what we as a school have to deliver to you for remote learning. We do have to keep records of what we send out and we also have to monitor the engagement from the children. BUT, we DO understand that it isn't as simple as us giving out work and the children just get on and do it! We KNOW that every household is individual with all sorts of differences: device sharing, lack of space to work, parents working from home, parents looking after relatives, the list goes on.

The guidance is 3 hours of work for primary age children. We do not want you to spend all day on the tasks. If you think that you have spent enough time on it, then please stop when you feel that you have had enough and upload what you have managed to get done. We also know that it is much more distracting working from home (I certainly know that!) we just want the children to do some school work in order to keep their skills ticking along. There is also the fact that a task that the teacher sets might take one child 15 minutes but another child might take much longer – this is also fine! We know the children and will not be expecting everyone to produce the same quantity – they don't in school!

The Zoom meetings and live lessons have been a huge success so far! One of the things people said during the last lockdown was how much the children missed their friends. Zoom is a brilliant way of keeping those connections with their class mates and SO good for their mental health. I can't recommend them enough. It is great for us too – we love children, they're the best part of our job, and seeing your class even when they can't be here is really lovely. I have also had lots of positive feedback as regards the home visits. Last lockdown we knew that printing was an issue so we are delivering packs of work to help you. It is also an opportunity for us to catch up with you and discuss any needs that you have from us – more paper, pens, etc., and moral support too – we are all in this together!

The feedback that I have had indicates that the children have also really enjoyed seeing the school staff. We want to keep the relationships with school staff strong through this lockdown so please try to be available when staff arrive as we will want to talk to the children. This is part of our wider pastoral role as a school which we do consider as important as our roles as educators.

One last thing: please bear in mind that the teachers have portfolios and messages to monitor for their whole class. Although it is lovely to see what wonderful activities you have been doing, could I remind you to please only upload school work that has been set.

Lee White

Head of School

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