



Newsletter 8

8th January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Although this wasn't the start to 2021 we hoped for or expected (after being assured by government that Primary Schools would definitely not close), we will do all we can to support all families with remote learning and to provide places in school for children of critical workers. We are sure that like us, you have all found this week very challenging as we all try to make adjustments in such a short time. However there are a few things to remember that we all might find reassuring:

- We did this before; it was tough but we got through and we can do it again
- Most children quickly settled when they returned to school; hopefully they won't be away for such a long period and we are sure they will readjust again
- Everyone is more confident with Seesaw and remote learning - there is some fantastic work being uploaded; well done Mums & Dads for becoming 'teachers' at such short notice!

It's not going to be easy - the increased workload for teachers and the stress for parents is immense - but we are all committed to doing our very best for our children. We were all devastated that we couldn't welcome everyone back and are hoping that the vaccination programme is successful and we will all be back together very soon.

In the meanwhile, stay safe and remember we are here to help and support when needed.

Missing you all.

ALL THE STAFF AT CALDECOTE SCHOOL

MONITORING ATTENDANCE DURING LOCKDOWN:

It may seem a little strange, but school still has to monitor attendance of children who are at home remote learning. From **Monday 11 January** we will:

- Be keeping a daily record of all children who have posted work on to Seesaw
- In the first instance, emailing if a child has not posted some work on to Seesaw each day
- If still no response, telephoning parents to check everything is okay

This is meant to be supportive and to help families feel connected with the school and also so we get to know if a family is struggling or are ill and need support. We understand that some days may be difficult and ask parents to:

- Post something on Seesaw every day; this may even be a message to say 'We haven't finished our work yet' just so we know you are okay
- Email the office to let us know if a child is poorly so we don't chase them up

Teachers will also be trying to telephone families regularly, just to keep in touch and let you know we are thinking about you.

Remote Learning:

Primary aged children are expected to do between 3 - 4 hours learning per day. Each class will be set a daily English, Maths + 1 other subject which should take approximately 1 hour for each. This will mirror what the Bubble groups are doing in school. In addition, children are expected to do reading, spellings, times tables and can access Mathletics. Some children will whizz through their work, for others it will take longer. Below are some ideas that will support planning your week:



The Oak National Academy www.thenational.academy/

This is a fantastic resource which has lessons for every area of the Primary National Curriculum. If your child responds well to someone on video, explaining, then we suggest you have a look at this site

White Rose Maths: <https://whiterosemaths.com/>

Brilliant maths resources, again with lots of explanations. We use this site lots in school

BBC: they will be putting more live lessons on their channels (CBBC) during lockdown; they are always high quality and worth watching



Joe Wicks: Hurray - he's back from Monday! A great way to keep children (and adults!) fit and active during another lockdown

Accelerated Reader: for Key Stage 2 children - we have opened up quizzing for at home so keep on with your reading and we will continue to award certificates in our Monday assemblies. This is the link to the website:

<https://ukhosted111.renlearn.co.uk/6708229/Public/RPM/Login/Login.aspx?srcID=s>

Jamie Segrave Sport: has prepared a 'active@home' pack with PE suggestions; we will send this via Parentmail

Reading Books: if your child needs to swap their reading book, please leave in a named plastic bag and put it on the bench or trolley outside the office by 10am. Please write a short note with any preferences (eg: one or two books, try the next level up) and we will swap them and the new ones will be ready to collect from 2pm. We will provide this service every day to begin with. Please remember to wear a face mask when you are on the school site.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY MONDAY @ 2.00 pm

We will send a Zoom link on Monday and hope lots of you can join.
There will be Star Awards, AR Certificates and other news.

Please all read the important letter from Jon Lewis, Director of Education on the next page.
Thank You.

If your child's school feels that your role does not fit the critical worker criteria, you may be asked to verify this with a letter from your employer detailing why you personally are critical to the COVID-19 response. If there is an alternative adult such as a partner or second parent who is not a critical worker, you may be asked why your [child\(ren\)](#) are not able to stay at home as per the Government's guidance. If the other adult is working at home or able to take leave from their non-critical job, this will be deemed as a safe alternative.

Schools are open to provide education to enable critical workers to respond to the crucial role you will play in the response to the COVID-19 emergency, but you must also support your school and only use this offer of support if you have no alternatives for childcare for your [child\(ren\)](#). Clearly the more children and young people that attend an education setting the wider the risk of spreading the virus grows. It may be likely that schools will not be able to accommodate all critical worker children and they will have to prioritise entry due to limited space.

Vulnerable children and young people – including those with education, health and care plans or a social worker

If your child has an education, health and care (EHC) plan and/or an allocated social worker they may attend their school. If you do decide to keep your [child\(ren\)](#) at home and you need additional support, please contact your school and they will work with the local authority to support you.

The Department for Education ([DfE](#)) definition of vulnerable children and young people who can access their school or college can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Free School Meal Entitlement and Provision

We understand that families continue to live in uncertain times and many are facing changes to their financial circumstances as a result.

If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals and now feel you may be eligible, please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to see if you meet the criteria and to apply online. If you have any queries in relation to free school meals entitlement please contact our Education Welfare Benefits Team on ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or telephone them on 01223 703200.

If you are currently in receipt of free school meals, your school will have been in contact to advise what provision is being offered to you during this period of school closures.

Government advice on leaving children unattended

There is no law about when you can leave your child on their own, but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. As parents, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home.

If you are at all unsure, the NSPCC recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 should not be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

Summer 2021 assessments

The Secretary of State for Education announced in Parliament yesterday that Primary school SATs will not take place this year. Schools will be providing more information on these changes soon.

Remote Learning

For parents who are not accessing school, you would have been notified of your schools plan for delivering remote learning during this time. The Department for Education has published expectations on these arrangements: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

If you are concerned about your child/ren's progress, access to ICT or have a query over the content of remote learning, please contact your school who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Childcare and Early Years

Early years settings – including nurseries, childminders and school-based provision – can remain fully open during this period, but reception classes and higher year groups will remain closed.

Parents can form a **childcare bubble with one other consistent household** for the purposes of informal childcare, where the children are under 14. This is mainly to enable parents to work and must not be used to enable social contact between adults. Some households will also be able to benefit from being in a support bubble. Details of support and childcare bubbles can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household#what-a-childcare-bubble-is>

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our schools and your compliance with the wider national restrictions in place. Whilst last year was extremely challenging for parents, carers, their children and our school staff, I was extremely proud to see how you all stepped up and faced the challenges head on. I have every confidence that together we will all play our part to protect ourselves, those around us, and the NHS.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Lewis
Service Director – Education
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council