



## **Lillington Nursery and Primary School**

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**Head Teacher: Mrs Wallace**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and coping under very strange circumstances and the ever-changing restrictions.

I would like to extend my thanks for all your support and kind words sent to all our staff over this last week. Many of you have already empathised with the challenges faced by schools at this time.

School has been open to children of critical workers as well as vulnerable children since Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. The number of children taking up places has increased significantly since the previous lockdown which we understand is partly due to the government guidance extending the definition of both vulnerable and critical worker children. However, further to national guidance, Finham Park Multi Academy Trust have agreed a joint position to enable schools to open safely during this lockdown period. This reflects the local current public health position of an increasing rate of transition and high number of daily positive cases. Schools have been recommended to revert to the current Trust-agreed bubble size criteria of no more than 15 pupils, this is subject to change as guidelines are updated.

As the number of children accessing a place is significantly higher than during the previous lockdown with over 70 children currently onsite, we may need to revert to previously agreed criteria for key worker children, as outlined below:

- For children whose parents are critical workers, we may need to prioritise places in the following order:

- 1) Both parents or single parent critical workers
- 2) One parent is a critical worker and the other parent is not working from home
- 3) One parent is a critical worker but the other parent is working from home

We will be looking at our numbers over the next few days and assessing whether there is a need to review the places already offered. We are hoping that we can balance the restriction on numbers against the need for places, but ask that parents think about whether they really need a place.

Whilst we continue to do everything we possibly can to reduce the risk of transmission, we have to acknowledge that the number of positive cases continues to rise locally and across the country. Therefore, it is important to balance government guidance on school places alongside the emphatic advice that the safest place for everyone to be is at home. If on reflection you decide that you no longer wish to take up a critical worker or vulnerable child place, we thank you and ask that you contact the school office by email to advise us of this.

Please remember that the children in school are doing the same work as those working from home.

Children have made a great start to their learning both at home and school. Teachers have said that they have been feeding back to some excellent online learning on Google Classroom and the critical worker/vulnerable groups in school have been working hard on the same work. Please bear with us while we iron out any minor glitches. We need to support each other through these challenging times, please join us in helping children to see the opportunities that the current situation offers, i.e. practising new IT skills; finding further reading materials and reading for pleasure; practising times tables and number bond facts; taking time to develop other skills such as drawing, painting, baking, music. There are some great ideas on our Facebook page. Children have also been asked to remember the online safety messages that they have learned in school.

As outlined in our **Remote Learning Policy** and communication, daily provision will offer a blend of online tasks and activities supported by recorded input from a staff member or teaching video from sources like Oak Academy. This will be shared on Google Classroom covering a range of curriculum content. Video sessions may include a greetings and messages, a shared reading session, a teacher explaining a concept or some new vocabulary or modelling an activity.

A suggested 'daily timetable' for home learning can be made but depending on each families situation you have the opportunity to decide when during the day you will complete each activity.

We have looked into the possibility of providing live online lessons as part of our remote learning package but have currently decided against it for our daily provision for the following reasons:

- Many parents have fed back that our current arrangements allow them the flexibility to fit supporting their child(ren)'s learning in around busy home working schedules – live lessons at set times would reduce this flexibility
- In homes where siblings are sharing devices, scheduled lessons for different year groups would be challenging particularly in homes where schedules from different schools conflict.
- Although live lessons allow a level of interaction between pupils and staff, this is more suited to older (secondary aged) children. Instead, we continue to offer feedback throughout the day via Google Classroom, regular phone calls from school staff to home and recorded messages and lessons as described above.
- Recorded lessons can be paused and played back allowing children to revisit key information and work at their own pace.
- We are mindful of working parents and the increased pressure that may be created though ensuring younger children attend scheduled live lessons on time.

DfE guidance states that provision should include recorded OR live direct teaching as well as time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. It is important to remember that

recorded sessions do not necessarily need to be recorded by school staff, Oak Academy lessons, for example, can be provided in place of school led video content. It is important that teachers focus their time and energy on the things that will have the best impact on pupil outcomes; if something is readily available and meets need, we will not be asking our teachers to recreate it.

At Lillington, we are striving for a balance between creating purposeful school-led input and allowing teachers the necessary time to make regular contact and feedback on independent work. We do also need to be mindful of staff well-being (as well as that of children and their families). We recognise the importance of children seeing us and hearing our voices which will be achieved through our recorded sessions and regular contact.

### **Contact with staff members**

Children working from home will receive online feedback on Google Classroom from a member of staff. On alternate weeks, children who are learning from home and are not attending school at any point, will be contacted by telephone by a member of staff in order to maintain the link between school and home during this challenging time. The focus here is for the teacher to praise and motivate pupils with home learning and check on their well-being, as well as check they understand how everything works online.

### **Exercise books/Reading books**

We are aware that access to reading books for children learning at home is limited. Please follow these links to access books from these online libraries:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

We will keep you updated as we obtain new resources to support your child with their reading.

### **Technology**

The school has been provided with a limited number of devices to support children with their remote learning at home. We would ask that parents only make a request for one of these devices if absolutely necessary. Devices will not be offered for children who have been allocated a place in school.

### **SEN Inclusion Provision**

If your child is on the SEN register they will be given additional support during their time at home. Mrs Greig will be in contact with families and children in order to support where needed. Alternatively if you wish to discuss ways to support your child then please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Greig during normal school hours.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

We cannot stress enough the importance of continuing to isolate should anyone in your household develop any symptoms. All family household members should stay at home until a test is taken and the results are received. You must not send your child into school if anyone in your household is symptomatic.

Below is key information taken from the government website:

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms

Your isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was an LFD or PCR test), and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result

Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th.

Follow this Stay at Home guide for more information.

Failure to comply with self-isolation may result in a fine, starting from £1,000. Parents or guardians are legally responsible for ensuring that anyone under 18 self-isolates if they test positive for COVID-19 and are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate. Reporting test results to school In order to keep our pupils, staff and the community safe, the school will continue to contact any close contacts resulting from positive cases reported where symptoms have developed within 48 hours of the last attendance in school. If you need to report a positive test result for a pupil of Lillington Primary, please call the school number: 01926 425114 and provide the following information:

- Name of child
- Date pupil last attended school
- Date of onset of coronavirus symptoms
- Date of test

- Date the positive test result was received
- Contact number

All the above information will be used to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify if any pupils and/or staff need to isolate. Should this be the case, you will be contacted by both email and text.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Thank you for your continued support

Stay safe

Yours sincerely

Mrs Victoria Wallace

Head Teacher at Lillington Nursery and Primary School