

Kildwick Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter

8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what a week! Back in early 2020 I don't think we ever thought that we would be starting 2021 in an even worse situation than we found ourselves in last year.

I have sung the praises of our staff team throughout this pandemic and I will continue to do so. The professionalism, resilience and genuine desire to do everything they can for your children has astonished me again this week. On Monday, we spent the day re planning the curriculum following the effects of the lockdown last year and then teaching staff spent the day preparing work for the children to do in school this half term. This is on top of all the planning Teachers had done over the Christmas break for the start of Spring 1.

We all felt it was inevitable that schools would close due to the new variant and the increased contact over the Christmas period. However, on Sunday we were told that schools were safe and that Primary Schools would be opening. We prepared ourselves, as we normally would, with the added pressure of concerns for staff well-being and that of our children and their families. Then the inevitable happened and, with 12 hours' notice, the staff achieved the impossible and made sure that our school was ready for critical key worker children and vulnerable learners whilst also preparing work for remote learning.

All of this has been done with staff in the same situation many of you find yourselves in. Some have been homeschooling their own children alongside teaching your children, we have had staff meetings with toddlers and I met with the Chair of Governors whilst she nursed her baby Grandson and homeschooled another. This week staff have all been in school at various times and mixed with a large amount of children from different households. Some have done this knowing they are returning home to clinically vulnerable people and none of them have let their anxieties show. What I am trying to say is that we completely understand the stresses, worries and frustrations you are all facing this week, we are all together in this horrific situation.

Considering all of this, it was disappointing, confusing and upsetting for staff to read that the DFE's response to their hard work this week was to encourage parents and carers to contact Ofsted if they do not feel that their school are working hard enough and that the remote education being provided is not good enough. Despite all the worry, confusion and exhaustion we have felt this week, it was discouraging to know that the DFE's first response is to assume that we are not doing a good job.

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Fortunately, we have received many, many positive emails and comments in school and I have encouraged staff to focus on these. If you feel this way, you can take a more positive approach than the one suggested by the DFE and contact Ofsted and let them know that your child's teacher is doing a great job.

<https://contact.ofsted.gov.uk/contact-form>

You may also want to show your appreciation through the parent view link:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

or give us a shout out on twitter with the hash tag #OiGav or use #teamkildwickce

I know some parents have already lobbied the Government to include school staff and those involved in childcare to be on the priority list for vaccination. Here is the link to email our local MP Julian Smith. Julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk

In the meantime please do not let school work cause any more stress in your households, do what you can when you can. The priority is to keep your children and your families safe. When all of this is over, which it will be, and when we are back in school, you can rest assured that we have some amazing staff working with your children. They will do what they did last term, assess your children and plan and deliver work to ensure that your child continues to learn. They will be ready for the next stage of their education. Remember your child will not be 'falling behind'; none of the children are receiving the education they would have done in 'normal' times.

It is vitally important that we all work together as a Kildwick CE team. We all feel frustrated, worried, and some perhaps angry. If at testing times like this we can pull together, we will know we have done the very best for our children. We all want to do everything we can to reduce the impact on our school community.

Please do get in touch with Miss Akrigg, your child's class teacher or myself if you have any worries or concerns. No problem is ever too small.

There is a light that never goes out.

Learning to Live, Living to Love, Loving to Learn

Stay safe, well and enjoy your children and your families this weekend.

Mr. T Whitehead
Headteacher



Positive Covid Test

If you receive a positive Covid test out of school hours please email the Headteacher ASAP.

headteacher@kildwickce.uk

Thanks



Birthdays

EMMI-LOUISE, C1
ZACHARY, C5
HARRY, C4



Remote Learning Expectations

Through our Remote Learning Policy we have set out clear requirements for our school to provide high-quality remote education, with a minimum of three hours a day for KS1 and four hours for KS2. This remote learning may be through 'live meet' lessons or through set activities. The feedback I have received verbally and through messages to staff has been extremely positive. These comments are richly deserved, and welcomed.

Remote Learning expectations of parents and pupils Staff can expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be contactable during the school day
- Complete work to the deadline set by teachers
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants

Staff can expect parents with children learning remotely to:

- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise can't complete work
- Seek help from the school if needed: in order for their child to access and complete remote learning activities
- Be respectful when making any complaints or concerns
- Support their child/ren with home learning tasks
- Ensure that their child/ren have a suitable quiet place to work without distraction
- Ensure that their child is able to access Google Classroom

(Taken from section 2.7 Remote Learning Policy)

Examinations

The Department of Education recognises that due to the further disruption caused by school closures, primary assessments cannot continue as intended. Therefore, all statutory key stage 1, key stage 2 tests, and teacher assessments planned for summer 2021 are cancelled.

Free School Meal Vouchers

The school is still waiting on advice about free school meals and vouchers. It may be that a similar system takes place that happened in the Summer lockdown, with families being issued vouchers via email. I will update as soon as I can.

Staff in school are Vulnerable

When the Prime Minister tells the country to stay at home, when the country's workforce is encouraged to work from home and when schools are told to close: staff are in school working.

Despite this, school staff are not a priority for the vaccination. At the time of writing over 300,000 people would disagree. If school staff are infected, potentially the whole school will close. I encourage parents to add your voice below to the UK Parliament petition website:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554316>

Remote learning hardware for pupils

The Government has promised hardware for school to support children with remote learning at home where devices are not available. This is something that Mr Horton is trying to do however, upon accessing the DfE site I am told that we cannot order our full allocation of two laptops yet.

If there are families in need of support with ICT or connecting to the internet then please do get in touch.



WELCOME

Mrs Jenkinson
to the staff team
as SEN Teaching
Assistant in
Robins Class 1.

Interventions and Extra Support

Some children receive additional interventions in school from Mrs. Manthorp and Miss Meegan. If you know your child attends sessions with them you can contact Mrs Manthorp for additional support and guidance regarding the work they have been doing with them. Mrs Manthorp is available on g.manthorp@kildwickce.uk. Please ensure that you also copy your child's teacher into any emails sent.

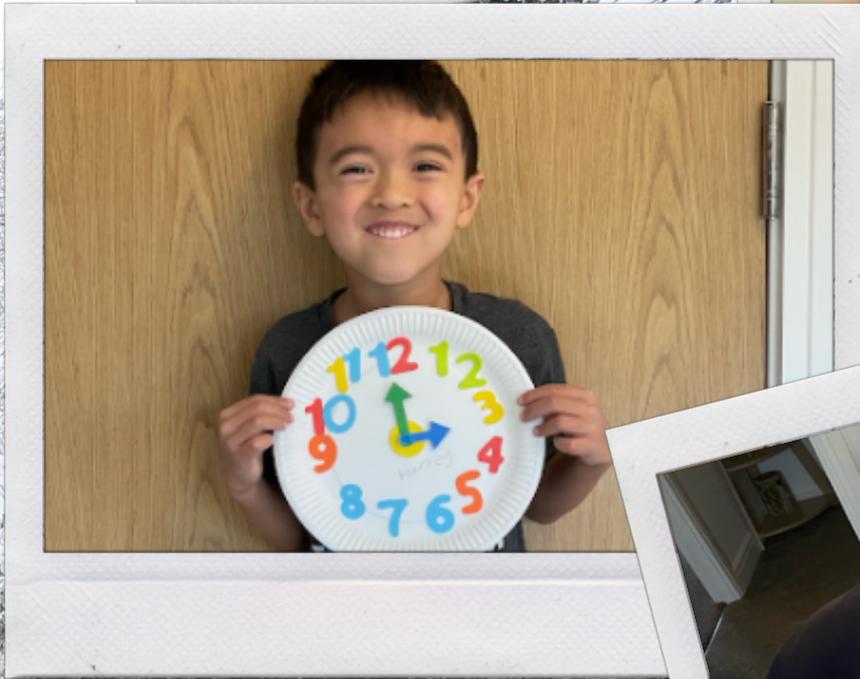
PTA NEWS

Thank you to the PTA and all of you for your fundraising efforts before Christmas. This money is already being put to good use and £400 will be spent on ebooks for EYFS and KS1 to access during lockdown. Without you this wouldn't be possible.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM AND MARVELLOUS ME

Communication between home and school is even more important in the current situation. Please make sure that you are receiving Marvellous Me messages and badges and that you have access to Google Classroom





PHOTOS FROM LOCKDOWN.....