

27th January 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

We hope this letter finds you all safe and well. At the time of writing we do not know when children will be back at school, everything is so uncertain at the moment and it is a worrying time for us all! We promise to let you know our plan as soon as we receive further information.

We do know that this year: -

- There are no Y6 SATS
- There are no Y1 Phonics screening checks
- There will be no requirement to report KS1 SATs teacher assessment
- The Year 4 times tables check will not be compulsory

Remote Learning Questionnaire

Thank you to all of those parents who completed the remote learning questionnaire; over 170 responses were received! This has given us a good basis to evaluate our current arrangements.

We are really pleased that you think the provision for learning has improved during this period of lockdown and that the majority of parents agree with our approach. Let's hope that this is the last time we have to work in this way!

- In response to parent comments about the lack of routine and appropriate clothing during lessons; we have decided that all children should wear school uniform for live teaching lessons (including PE kit), this will fall in line with the expectations of the key worker children in school. Over the past couple of weeks, children have attended live teaching lessons in their pyjamas and unsuitable clothing! It is important that children know that although they aren't actually attending the school building, they are learning from home! Wearing school uniform will ensure that children get back to the good habits of being on time for school and are ready to learn. It will also show children that they still belong to our school community.
- In response to parent comments about the availability of ICT resources, we have been allocated 64 devices from the DfE and are working through the list of requests for ICT support. Laptops and iPads have also been issued from our classroom stock. Additional free data from Vodafone is also available. If you need support with extending your available data, please email your child's class teacher.
- In response to parent comments about the amount of time their children are learning on line, we have decided that live lessons will not take place on Friday afternoons; this time will be assigned by teachers for independent study. Equally, working off line following the teacher lesson input will ensure that there is less time in front of a screen.

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Places in School

We are receiving a lot of requests for places in school, the only children entitled to a place in school currently, are those listed as vulnerable as defined by the Government and key worker children CRITICAL to the management of the national Covid pandemic. At this point in time, we are at capacity and cannot facilitate more children in school; the safest place for your child is at home! Getting children back to school is a priority but only when it is safe to do so!

Testing of School Staff

This week, Lateral Flow Testing of all staff in school will begin. The tests are designed to ascertain whether staff are asymptomatic of the Coronavirus and is a positive step forward in terms of protecting school staff and children. We hope that this is the start of the Government's approach to reopening schools as soon as possible!

February Half Term

School will be closed during February half term. Childcare for critical key works can be facilitated by Birmingham City Council. Please send an email to familysupport@westheathprimary.bham.sch.uk Vouchers for those children entitled to free school meals will be issued to families by Birmingham City Council to cover the half term period.

You are doing a great job!

Some parents have shown concern about not being able to fit everything in! We would like to reassure you that whatever you can do to support your children is helping them to learn! Your child might not be able to attend live lessons or do their work according to the timetable sent by their teachers, but they can complete the work at any time and the PowerPoints associated with lessons will help the children to access the content.

We appreciate that you all have different circumstances and therefore anything is better than nothing: cook together, go for walks, exercise, share a story, sing, make time to talk to each other, the list is endless but it is a great opportunity to teach your children how to help with the house work! You would be amazed at how much science is involved with washing up! All that we ask is that you do your best, fit in whatever you can and laugh together.

The most important thing you can do is to keep your child safe, loved, cared for and happy!

Thankyou

We would like to thank you all for your kind words, support and best wishes. You have been amazing during these very challenging times!

Best wishes and stay safe,

Mrs Hooper and the staff team

