

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is not the start to 2021 that we were expecting, and it appears that the next few weeks are going to be particularly challenging for all of us.

As you are aware, we are only open currently for face to face teaching to pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils until further notice. Initially we have been told that we are closed for a minimum of two weeks however this could easily increase with the current rate of infections in Essex and the local area and the impending announcement for the Prime Minister later this evening.

Remote Learning

This week, if your child(ren) are not accessing remote learning, then a member of staff will be contacting you to offer support with any difficulties you may be experiencing.

Working with Google Classroom takes time to adjust (and Tapestry if you are new to Early Years and Year 1) to but once up and running these are very effective platforms for online learning.

We have discussed as a staff today about how we can engage more with our pupils and looking at ways to use video and PowerPoints etc to teach new concepts.

Printed Home Learning

If you do not have broadband or limited data for example, then please contact admin@merrylands-pri.sch.essex.sch.uk and request paper home learning. The office will then contact you to arrange for you to pick up. If you have no one to pick up the home learning due to self isolating for example, then a member of staff can drop it off to you.

Reception and Nursery

We understand that online learning for younger children is difficult. However, there will be daily phonics and number work on Tapestry as well as story time for your child to watch and engage with as well as practical ideas to do at home.

Staff roles

Staff are working in teams to deliver face to face teaching as well as planning, resourcing, and marking the remote learning. This means that a member of staff from the year group may be delivering the inputs rather than your child's class teacher. In some cases, your child's class teacher may also be teaching this week in another year group as well as marking work for your child's class too.

There are several staff who are unwell due to Covid or other unrelated illness, self isolating or are having to support family members who are unwell with Covid. This too may mean that you child may not hear from their child's class teacher until they are well enough but will still see and hear a member of staff from the year group.

All these factors need to be taken into consideration so please bear with us as we are having to logistically make it work daily and circumstances of staff are constantly changing. If you need support then please email the class teacher, ring the office or email admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support

Take care

Mrs Robinson

