

11th Feb 2021

Update on school places & home learning expectations:

Dear Parents,

Polite request to reduce contact in School if possible/Requests for places:

We have continued to have an increase in requests for places for children of key workers or parents who feel their child is vulnerable. We are currently supporting almost 50% of our pupils with some face to face contact days in school but have had to juggle very limited places in order to keep people safe. We have requested that those whose children have got a place in school try to limit their days of contact where possible (and ask that if anyone else can reduce their child's contact days after half term, they contact us as soon as possible). I'm afraid we do have a waiting list for those who have made requests but the likelihood of us being able to offer more places until we get any formal announcements from the government about reopening more fully is very slim. Please also find attached with this letter, a letter from Jane Moore (Director for Children's Services for Leicestershire) who understands the situation we (and all other schools & parents across Leicestershire) are in.

Home Learning Expectations:

We firstly want to thank a great many of you who have done a wonderful job of working with your children at home during this lockdown. We also want to thank you for your valuable feedback in the questionnaire we asked parents to respond to this week. This has provided some valuable insight and will help us to continue to improve what we are offering.

We totally understand that those of you managing home learning will most likely also be juggling this with your day jobs. While the government have stipulated the expectation that children in Key Stage 2 should be completing 4 hours of work and children in Key Stage 1 should be completing 3 hours of work, this will vary between year groups and individual children too. Some children will complete work faster than others, and sometimes, you as parents will need to take the decision to manage work in other ways (some parents I have spoken to have said they complete work in the morning and do other activities such as art, cooking or "outdoor adventures" in the afternoons). **As a school we have tried to be as flexible as possible with how we work to support you as parents. We do however have an expectation that all children will engage to one degree or another with home learning.**

Sending work in on Class Dojo:

We understand some parents find it easier to send in photographs of work (using the messenger facility on Class Dojo) rather than uploading directly to the portfolio section. We also know that depending upon the devices you have at home, it may be easier for you to collect printed packs to enable you to complete work.

Completing work on paper:

Our staff are working incredibly hard and want to be able to give feedback to the children for their work as close to the point in time that they have done it. We therefore ask that **if your child has completed work on paper at home, send us a photo of a sample of it** (don't worry, we don't expect photos of everything), so we can give your child the feedback they deserve. Please **do not save everything as paper copies to bring into school** when the children are eventually allowed to return (as I'm afraid teachers will not have time to go through all this work to mark it at that point as we will have our class commitments again).

Expectation for engagement in work:

I need to make you aware that should children not be engaging at all with school, unlike the last lockdown, schools have the responsibility to report this to the Education Welfare and Attendance Officer (which can incur a fine). To avoid this please send in photos of work or ask to speak to your class teacher about ways to engage with us.

Kind regards