

8th February 2021,

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your family have been keeping well and have adjusted to lockdown once again.

Possible school reopening

You may be aware that the government has announced that schools will not be reopening until 8th March at the earliest. The finer details have not yet been confirmed, although it is likely to be similar to before, when year groups returned slowly. We will be informed of these details in the week beginning 22nd February and I will then share with you our plans for having your child back with us.

It is disappointing not to have been able to reopen sooner, however a recent case this term reminded us of the continued risk of infection. We must all do what we can to reduce the transmission rate. This is one reason why the advice to schools was to keep the numbers of children attending as low as possible.

Arrangements over half term

The government has announced that schools will close over February half term. This also means that school will not be open to those children who are currently in school, such as those with EHC Plans or those who are the children of Keyworkers. I appreciate that this may require you arranging childcare over the holidays, however our staff need a break and to spend time with their families.

Remote Learning from Home

Having spoken to some parents, Many parents have had a difficult time engaging their children with home learning and this is a concern for us as a school. many of you feel that the best way to get your child more involved with their learning is for the school to provide live lessons.

Ofsted's have begun to share information about their research findings on the impact of remote learning. I thought it would be useful to share some of this with you, which might also help to dispel some myths around home learning.

'Live lessons' are not necessarily the best approach Evidence shows that concentration for children is shorter online than the length of a typical lesson at school. We also need to take into account that it is very difficult for teachers to teach online lessons, mainly due to the lack of interaction from the children at home. Pre-recorded sessions, such as our staff talking over a PowerPoint, doing pre-recorded speeches or reading stories to children, can often be a better way to help children to learn. What remote education needs to do is to make sure that schools deliver the curriculum. This is something that Crown Lane has been doing since the very beginning of the first lockdown, rather than simply 'entertaining' children with activities that lacked any substance.

What does effective remote education look like? Regardless of how home learning is delivered, it needs to offer **new subject matter in small quantities** and **not all at once**. It needs to refer to prior knowledge and to explain the big picture. It needs to involve practice and retrieval and it must involve feedback from teachers and support staff. Crown lane is offering effective remote learning

by offering what is known as 'blended learning'. This means that we are using a mixture of approaches to engage children with their work.

The next point from Ofsted's research is very important and is one of the main reasons why I am writing to you today.....Ofsted's research also tells them that getting children motivated is an issue and parents say that it can be a real challenge to get their children to engage with remote learning. So on the one hand I want to thank those of you who have persisted at home and are ensuring that your child is doing their work and returning it promptly. On the other hand, if you are having a tricky time trying to get your child to engage with learning, rest assured you will not be the only one and we are here to help!

There are things such as regular contact with class teachers and interactive lessons that we have already been doing. These help children to have fun and we video these in advance and share to help develop a sense of community.

In light of the above, after February half term we are launching two daily face-to-face Registration sessions morning and afternoon. These will run alongside what we are already providing, so that children and their classmates can meet their teachers for 15 minutes.

Separate to the children who find it difficult to engage with remote learning but who try, a handful have not even tried. In some cases, these are children who were lucky enough to have borrowed a laptop from school but who have not yet logged into our remote learning system. We have been advised by the local authority that we need to work closely with these families to establish why this is the case and to ensure that each child's work is completed promptly. As you will know, **remote learning during lockdown is not optional**, and so we hope that the Registration sessions twice per day may help these children to engage with their work while allowing us to check that they are coping well during lockdown.

How will twice daily Registration work?

From the **first week** after half term, we will have a morning registration (between 9am and 11am) that will take place between all pupils in a given class and their teacher. For Nursery to Year 1 this will take place using Microsoft Teams and Years 2 to 6 will use Google Classrooms. You will be informed of the time of Registration for your child's class in the coming days.

From the **second week** after half term, we will have a morning registration (between 9am and 11am) and afternoon (between 12.30pm and 2.45pm) that will take place between all pupils in a given class and their teacher. For Nursery to Year 1 this will take place using Microsoft Teams and Years 2 to 6 will use Google Classrooms. Again, you will be informed of the time of Registration in due course.

Class Registrations will allow children and teachers to see each other and to have a brief catch-up. All pupils/staff will be expected to have their cameras turned on for these meetings and these will be timetabled to avoid clashes between siblings who may be sharing devices at home.

Below is a list of protocols/guidelines that we have put in place to protect pupils, parents and staff. It is very important that parents and carers read and discuss these with their child.

Guidelines/expectations for Google Classroom or Teams Meetings

Staff will:

Have a Teaching and Learning Assistant (TALA) or additional member of staff present for the meeting

Be dressed in appropriate clothing for work

Ensure there is a neutral background for the call – this will be provided by the school

Ensure no other family members are visible or audible in the background

Record the meeting and remind parents at the start of the meeting you are doing so (for safeguarding purposes only)

Use appropriate, professional language

Mute the mic if anything inappropriate is said or **end** the meeting immediately if anything inappropriate is seen

Any safeguarding concerns to be reported using CPOMs (not email) to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the remainder of the SLT/Safeguarding Team

Complete a log sheet (on Google Drive) of what, when, with whom and anything that went wrong (template to be provided by RG and AA)

Parents:

Will be dressed appropriately- (not wearing sleeping attire)

Will ensure your child is dressed appropriately - (not in sleeping attire)

Will ensure your child is in a room without distractions (preferably not a bedroom)

Will ensure no other family members are visible or audible in the background

Will use appropriate language

We will not join the session, if you have any questions, please contact the school after.
(We expect Nursery and Reception parents to be involved due to their child's age)

Will not record the meeting on any device or take photos

Please read the Acceptable Use Policy (attached in email)

Children please can you:

Be dressed in clothes that **are not** pyjamas

Speak when it is your turn and your teacher will turn your microphone on

Use kind words

A trial run of these Registrations will take place this week and a member of staff will contact you to let you know the time scheduled for this to take place.

Will telephone calls home from school staff continue?

Yes. As usual, we will continue to make our calls home as we have been doing since lockdown began, however if the calls are not answered **twice on two separate days in the same week**, then staff have been asked to escalate the matter to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We are following this process to ensure that children remain in contact with school and are safe and well.

What will happen when my child completes their remote learning work?

The completed remote learning work will be promptly marked and feedback will be shared with each child. Your child may receive a certificate or a special mention in our Friday Celebration Assemblies led by Ms John-Cyrus.

What will happen when my child **does not complete** their remote learning work?

If a child is not engaging with their home learning then they are at serious risk of becoming educationally disadvantaged. From the week after February half-term, if a child does not hand in their home learning for **2 consecutive days** without having a good reason for not doing so, then staff have been asked to escalate the matter to a member of the Senior Leadership.

A recent document produced by Lambeth called '*Protocol for joint working between Children's Services and Lambeth maintained nurseries, schools and colleges and children with reference to attendance and joint working practice during the Covid 19 pandemic*' explains the following:

Role of the Education Welfare Officer

- The aim of the Educational Welfare Team is to work with partner agencies to encourage school attendance for pupils who have been identified as being vulnerable; have a EHCP or whose parents are critical workers
- They will work closely with the education team to:
 1. Promote the safety measures that schools have put in place such as bubbles and staggered starts and reduced class size
 2. Focus on promoting online learning for children that do not attend school.
- **The EWT will make enquires and conduct home visits for pupils who have not logged on to remote learning for 10 consecutive days and schools are unable to contact parents or guardians**
- When making enquires with families; EWOs will also enquire on the wellbeing of the pupil and family and sign post them to support services if required

Please note that the school will be referring cases to Educational Welfare, where appropriate, as per the points above.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing get in touch with one of our team, even though we are not together physically, we are still a school community and we need to support each other as best we can.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

Gavin Farrell

Headteacher