



11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the first week of Spring Term under our belts we are glad to have been able to settle relatively smoothly into a new routine, offering in-school provision for our vulnerable children and those from our key worker families whilst providing online remote teaching to all our pupils at home. We have been able to reach this point thanks to the tireless efforts of staff in preparing and improving our systems whilst adapting to ever-changing circumstances.

What is clear from last week, however, is that the number of pupils eligible to attend school under the critical worker provision is much higher than during the first lockdown. We therefore need to ensure that we can accommodate those most in need whilst recognising that we must continue to do everything that we can to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible in school in light of recent Coronavirus developments. We currently have 39% of our pupils attending school, as our nursery children can continue to use the childcare provision if they wish, as well as many children invited in due to their vulnerabilities.

As I am sure you will understand, running a dual system of educating and supervising children in school whilst providing remote learning to those children at home places an additional logistical staffing burden on the school. Teachers are deployed to online teaching whilst staff are still required in the classrooms for those being educated in school. The extremely rapid rate of transmission of the virus at the moment means that we must do everything we can to protect our school community: pupils, parents and staff alike.

Last week I received a few emails/phone calls concerning our decision not to offer 'live' video lessons in our first few weeks of lockdown. Parents have quoted "the school down the road are doing them, why can't we?" and "I'm disappointed my child is not getting live lessons".

As a life-long educator and professional, I found this difficult to accept as I pride myself on providing the very best education for all the children at our school. Therefore, I felt it only correct to revisit our remote learning policy and the reasons behind this.

We aim to provide a blended learning approach, directing parents to Oak Academy and other quality subscriptions, paper packs for our younger children, google slides, recorded lessons and when staff and children are ready, some 'live' lessons/check-ins. This will all be done as a whole school to ensure we have consistency across. We understand every family's circumstances are different which is why we will deliver this approach.



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We would very much appreciate any feedback around your child's remote learning so we can continue to adapt and improve our offer. If you could spare a few minutes to complete the parent survey below.

<https://forms.gle/J76DN6BHWHzsazHj8>

Thank you in advance for your help and support in this matter.

Dave Card

Mr Card
Head of School