

King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update 12.6.20

As you will be aware, the government has now announced that other year groups will not be returning to school this term due to the ongoing safety restrictions. We know this will be really difficult news for some children and families.

For those who have returned to school, it has been absolutely lovely to see you all and it has just reinforced how much we miss having our whole school family together. Those who are not in school may not know that the whole staff team is busy teaching the children on site as we are working in very small groups that are not allowed to mix. We are still getting used to where everyone is and who they are teaching!

Now that we know the plans for the rest of term and the children in Reception, Year 1 and 6 who have elected to return are all settled in, we are looking at ways that we can introduce some more interaction with children who are not on the school site.

Next week staff will be telephoning children again. For children in the main nursery (Klee Class) this will be a video message and cards in the post, as before. After this, some families may receive calls from our fantastic support staff team of TAs and Nursery Nurses to help with the off-site learning for children with Special Educational Needs and some others who were previously receiving additional support in school. Other regular calls that some families have been receiving from members of the staff/ Inclusion and Senior Leadership teams will continue.

The week after next we are hoping to organise an online Circle Time for each class with their class teacher. We will be sending information about this next week and this will include clear safeguarding expectations that will be part of this new approach for those who wish to join in. If these are successful we may run them more regularly.

Weekly class slides will continue as usual. Please note that there are now a number of wider links on the slides in order to access other types of learning. This includes the nationally set up Oak National Academy. This website provides online lessons for all children and they can be used to supplement the slides that the school sends out weekly. We will continue to print slides for those families that request this - please just email the admin address if you need these:

admin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org. Please continue to upload learning on to J2E so that teachers can comment - remember you can take screen shots and photos and upload those too. Alternatively you can email things that the children have completed to the admin address so that we can put them on the website to share with others. For those families not accessing the school's learning currently, please try to upload/email at least one piece of work a week. If this is not possible, do telephone or email to arrange to drop it off at school. It is important that all children are engaging in some ongoing learning at home as this will help their mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as supporting their eventual return to school. If there are any barriers to achieving this that we can support



with, please do call or email us and we will do what we can.

In addition, we are ordering some workbooks for Reception to Year 5 that will be available to support children with their learning at home. We will let you know when these are ready to collect. We are working with other schools on some transition work for Year 6 alongside the existing learning arrangements.

A couple of parents/carers have mentioned things that other schools are doing e.g. use of other online learning platforms. Every school has a different approach that they have developed over the closure period to make learning accessible to as many pupils as possible. Many of these schools used these systems as part of their usual homework provision prior to COVID-19. At King Athelstan, we will not be launching online lessons ahead of the summer break as the systems we have set up are working well. However, we do not know what the future holds, and whilst we hope to be "back to normal" in September, we are exploring setting up a new system behind the scenes to launch in the new school year, should it be necessary. We would encourage families who feel their children would benefit from this type of input to use the Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize lessons in the short term.

In the next couple of weeks we will be writing to you with the class arrangements for 2020-21. The transition arrangements are particularly important this year. This will include an ending with the current teacher as well as induction with the new class teacher before the summer holidays. This is likely to take place virtually, due to the current restrictions. We will let you know more about it in the coming weeks. Transition activities will be included in future weekly slides to help prepare the children. We will share photos of their new teacher and other information about their class for you to look at over the summer break. We will also be planning the curriculum carefully moving forwards next year so that children have the opportunity to catch up on some of the direct teaching that they have missed. At present, we are planning for usual staffing arrangements for September, however, please note that all arrangements will be draft until the government confirms the safety guidance for school for September.

We are all working in ever changing ways and we really appreciate your support as we respond to each new challenge that comes our way. We know that there will be more changes in the coming weeks and we will continue to update you, adapt plans and add new aspects to provision week by week. We know that there will be some children who are working hard to continue their learning at home with parents/carers supporting and others who are finding this really challenging for a variety of reasons. The main thing is please do not worry - do what you can. Please contact us if you are really struggling and we will try to support you. A little work each day is better than nothing at all and reading is the most important activity of all. Make sure you continue to spend time together as a family, too.

We will be in touch again next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher