

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your support over the last few challenging days. The comments you have sent in have been very much appreciated by us all.

I have decided to send the newsletter a day early as there are a number of things we wanted to make you aware of.

REMOTE LEARNING

There are a few things to make you aware of that I hope will ease the burden on you as you complete remote learning.

Firstly, please do email the class teacher if you are having any issues with the learning sent home. They will get back to you as soon as possible. This can be done via the office or through the learning platform.

We are currently able to have one teacher in school and one working from home on the remote learning so hopefully they will be able to assist you fairly promptly.

If it is a technical issue, we may need to wait for the IT technician to pick this up.

The media news around laptops and IT provision has not been clear and I wanted to explain the system to you. A few parents have asked about borrowing laptops from school. Unfortunately we cannot lend school laptops to children owing to insurance cover and the need to have devices available for in-school teaching. The government has allocated school a few laptops for parents to use but they have not yet been sent out to primary schools. The local government has also set up a scheme to help any low-income families who are struggling with technology.

Both of these schemes are aimed primarily at low-income families with savings of less than £500. Miss Savory or Mrs Jennings will be in touch with our free school meal families over the next two days.

I have also become aware that it is possible to log onto teams (the system being used by key stage 2) via an x-box or Playstation. Guidance on doing this

is [here](#).

Finally, on the whole subject of remote learning: If you are struggling to get onto the learning we have provided, there is the option of the BBC programmes being put out from Monday. These programmes will run for up to 4 hours and are of a high quality. They will be available live but also through i-player. If on some days or times of the day you need to move to using these instead of the learning provided by school, please let the teachers know. Alternatively you could do a mixture of both, especially if you are having to share laptops across working parents and children. Please click on the link here for more details. <https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2020/bbc-launches-biggest-education-offer-ever>

There are a number of other excellent on-line sites which we would recommend for extra lessons including the Oak National Academy. [Oak National Academy Online Classroom \(thenational.academy\)](https://www.thenational.academy) Please look on our website for others we have pointed you to in the past.

Please do not apply for a place in school because you are having issues with IT. We cannot accommodate these extra numbers but ask that you keep in touch with us about this and take note of what I have written above. Thank you again for all you are doing to assist your child with their on-going learning.

CRITICAL WORKERS/VULNERABLE CHILDREN

I am pleased to report that the children have settled very well and are engaging confidently with the new bubbles and changes.

Thankfully we are currently operating at a level which we can sustain with our staffing levels. However, we would appreciate it if you would keep your child at home when you aren't working or if one parent is working from home. This is to minimise the number of children and adults we have in school. Although children are unlikely to become very seriously ill with covid, this is not the case for adults. We have already had a couple of members of staff who have been quite poorly over the Christmas break.

Please work with us to keep the risk to a minimum by keeping children at home if possible. Part-time attendance is not a problem for the school and, in fact, encouraged.

If numbers continue to rise, we will have to implement the recommended prioritisation of:

- **Both parents need to be critical workers (where there are 2 parents in the household)**
- **NHS workers involved in COVID-19 health response including vaccinations**
- **Police and emergency services**
- **Social care staff including care homes and social workers**
- **Education staff providing for vulnerable groups and critical worker children.**

With your help we will endeavour not to get to this position.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Local authority scheme mentioned below comes under the umbrella offer being made to low-income families. Please do log onto the website [Norfolk Assistance Scheme - Norfolk County Council](#) and make use of what is being offered.



[Norfolk Assistance Scheme - Norfolk County Council](#)

Find out about the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which helps some of Norfolk's most vulnerable residents or those going through a time of crisis. The information includes the criteria to apply for the scheme, an online form to apply and how to get urgent help with food or gas and electricity costs.

www.norfolk.gov.uk

Within the website there is an offer of free [food parcels](#) during the winter period. Please click on the link if you feel you would benefit from this.

FOODBANK APPEAL

If you can spare some items of food, there are people in the village who need

some help (with any leftovers going to Norwich Foodbank, which is experiencing greater demand than ever). If anybody you know needs financial assistance from the church's covid relief fund, then please let Adrian know. Please click here for further information <http://mulbchurch.org.uk/whatwedo/34>

FAMILY VOICE

On Monday 11th January, 10am – 12pm, Clare Angell will be joining us for a Let's Talk...about keyworking event. She wants to hear from parent carers who have, or are, struggling with a child or young person with ASD and learning disabilities. She is developing a pilot scheme that might be able to help families just like yours by providing a keyworker to navigate difficult times and save you all from crisis. Please see poster [here](#).

Please be aware that most of the office team are working remotely from home so please continue to email rather than phone the school with any queries or concerns. These will be picked up promptly. Thank you.

Kind regards
Bev Theobald
Head Teacher