



# PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **One week on!**

As the days roll on, we are beginning to return to something resembling normality in school. The children have been fantastic. It has taken them a bit of time to acclimatise to the expectations of classroom learning, but we are already well on the way through the curriculum for this term and the effort that the children are showing is excellent.

As was always going to be the case when dealing with something for the very first time, we have found some challenges. As a result, we have had to make a few changes to our plans and we need all parents to read them and adhere to them to help keep the children safe. These will be sent as a separate ParentMail to ensure that the message is clear.

## **Attendance**

We know that the guidance and information around attendance has been challenging. We want children in school all the time – being in school is imperative if we want children to learn at their best. However, we also understand that the risks of COVID-19 and its transmission cause concern for all and you need to take the appropriate actions to keep your family and the school community safe.

You will have seen in the news that there are challenges with the testing process which means that getting a test and returning the results is a longer process than it had been in June and July. This can be frustrating as most people want the test back as soon as

possible because of the knock on implications.

To support you in your decision-making, we have written a document with what to do which was sent yesterday. Please look at this carefully to help you when deciding which course of action to take.

With the longer time between testing and results, and the implications of family (and possibly siblings) self-isolating, we have updated our home learning strategy as follows:

- If a child is displaying symptoms, and therefore ill, there is no expectation on them to complete home learning.
- For siblings who need to self-isolate but who are not ill, there is now some home learning on the website to cover the first two days of absence. This is to allow us the time to prepare additional home learning in line with our curriculum should the child(ren) be off school for an extended period but not ill.
- We will be sending updated logins for Microsoft Teams. All children will have one. When a child has to self-isolate and is not ill, linked learning will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams. It will be in line with what the children are doing in school so that when they return to school, they can continue with their peers. It will be linked to online resources.
- Children will have to submit work at the end of each day for the teacher to see in case adjustments are needed.

Thank you for your support

### **How to help your children**

At Palace Wood, we have always tried to involve parents with all steps of the learning journey. We often held meetings on ways that you could help to support your child(ren) and we would very much like to continue to this. However, as it will not be possible to hold meetings in school, we are looking at possible ways to do this virtually. Currently, this looks as though we could hold live meetings using an online platform (Microsoft Teams) and share the videos to watch at a later (or additional) time.

We will be creating a programme for parents to interact with over the coming weeks, but if you have any areas, which you would like us to cover, please contact us –

[headteacher@palacewood.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@palacewood.kent.sch.uk)

### **Parent Feedback**

We really want to make sure that we get things right for children and families and so we are keen to get your feedback on the things that are working and that could be improved. In the next week or two, we will invite you to join us for a virtual parent forum where we will be able to discuss the return to school and the new routines that run alongside it. If you do have any questions, queries or feedback, we have extended the deadline until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. We will then use these to form an agenda for the meeting.

### **Behaviour**

As we mentioned in our return to school plan, behaviour is of key importance to the successful learning of our children. We have made some minor adjustments to our behaviour policy to take account of the current situation. A ParentMail containing all you need to know will be coming out detailing this. Please read and take note of this as your support in this is so important.

### **And finally**

Today I did my first virtual assembly. Not sure it was quite the same, but it was lovely to have some contact with the whole school again. I'm sure I will improve but as with all things, I'll need time to practice, get feedback and improve. Every day's a school day as they say.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mark Chatley

#### **Dates for your Diary:**

3 remaining INSET days: 23/10, 4/1, 7/6

Flu immunisation – whole school – 20/11

Portrait Photos – 13/10

#### **Parentmails:**

All Attendance Guidance

Microsoft Teams

Uniform

Caterlink Menu - attached

### **Superstar Corner**

Don't forget to send in things that you have been doing outside of school for us to share. They can be anything from clubs attended to award won to new skills learnt.