



Gnosall St. Lawrence C.E. Academy and Pre-School

(Part of the Shire Learning Trust
Company Reg Number: 9422746)

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Monday 11th January 2021

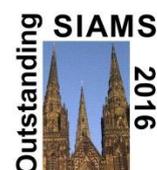
Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to begin with a genuinely huge 'thank you' to you all. I know I've said it a couple of times already, but I want to make sure that you know you are doing a fantastic job in the most difficult of circumstances. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding while we have adapted to this new way of working.

On Friday evening, the government released a further update of the key worker guidance along with the advice that **'parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'**. Please remember that the content that the children are receiving in school is **exactly** the same as what is being delivered online. There is no difference for those children who have to attend school. Can I remind parents that, while we will accommodate eligible children in school, if you or your partner are at home you really should be keeping the children at home with you. We have had three times more children in school than in the first lockdown and, while we understand that parents have to work, we need to remember that the whole point of lockdown is to limit the amount of mixing that children do in the school setting.

The Department for Education have now released guidance on the current school and remote learning situation, in which they have increased the expected hours of remote learning for Key Stage 2 to an average of 4 hours per day. For Key Stage 1, the expectation remains 3 hours per day, with 'less for younger children'. I fully appreciate that the amount of remote learning tasks coming through to you from the teachers may seem overwhelming - please just do your best and that is more than good enough! Staff are monitoring children's engagement with home-learning tasks and as previously explained, will be in touch if they have not had any engagement from your child for two or more days; this is to see if we can support you in any way. One thing to note is that the school number may come up as 'withheld' - please call us back if we leave you a message.

We will now be sending the vast majority of tasks to you the night before they need to be done. Parental feedback has indicated that this gives you time to have a look through, print, etc and prepare yourself for what's to come! Whilst we will endeavour to do this wherever possible, there might be the odd task that comes through first thing in the morning if we have had technical difficulties. Please bear with us when the computer gremlins rear their little heads. The class teachers are available by email from 8:45 am to 3:30 pm each day and will do their best to reply to you as quickly as possible. However, please bear in mind our part-time staff and that teachers are working alongside our support staff in the different bubbles. Feel free to email when is best for you, but staff are not obliged to reply outside of these working hours. Furthermore, within the school day, as well as working with children on site, they may be





engaged in filming new content or hosting Teams meetings so replies might not be instant but will be as soon as they can.

We fully appreciate that remote learning of this nature is not an easy task for parents, especially given the demands of an already difficult situation. Please do contact us if we can be of any help.

The arrangements for those children attending school remain as they have been since September regarding drop off and collection arrangements. All parents and carers need to continue to wear a face covering during drop off and collection; staff are happy to have a telephone conversation if needed but will avoid face-to-face communication. Children are required to wear school uniform on the days that they are not having PE. However, we are required to keep windows partially open so you may wish for them to wear extra layers under their usual uniform. We are continuing to offer hot school meals to those children in school, but we are currently unable to offer sandwiches or wraps. As of today, the menu will repeat on week 2 until further notice. Wraparound provision before and after school is still available, so please contact Mrs Carn if you would like to use this service. This is dependent on staffing levels available and should there be any change, I will of course inform you immediately.

The usual guidance regarding what to do if anyone in your household experiences symptoms of Coronavirus apply, and we ask that you inform school immediately if this is the case and to isolate accordingly. Similarly, if anyone in your child's bubble tests positive and is identified as a close contact, your child may be asked to self-isolate.

Please also know that we are still here for all of our families and if you are in a situation where you are isolating or need to attend urgent appointments and need assistance for your children during this time, do not hesitate to get in touch to see if we can provide help and support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours Faithfully,

Kirsten Sweet
Headteacher
Gnosall St Lawrence CE Primary Academy

