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16<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

After an amazing week of blended learning, we apologise for the intrusion at the weekend, but we felt the need to update you on a few things which could impact you, your child and also the school on Monday.

### Feedback on remote learning and next steps

We are very grateful to those parents who were able to complete our remote learning survey. We found the responses very helpful and when the staff met after school on Friday, we were able to discuss the comments and look at ways forward to support both the children and parents who are working remotely.

As a result of the feedback, we will now be offering additional live streaming in some classes, dependent on the age of the children and also the capacity to do so with so many children still attending school. Please keep an eye on your child's google classroom class stream tomorrow for details of any additional live sessions for next week.

This week we have decided to take the following next steps:

- An additional daily live stream for all KS2 classes (maths or English)
- An additional small group live session in Year 1 (either maths or English). We will initially start with just one session per week and see how it goes.
- The guided reading session in reception will be replaced with a circle time activity to promote communication and language skills.

We are sure that some parents wish for more live streaming and we totally understand that. However, the high number of children attending school means that all staff need to be in classes and find it difficult to leave the classroom to live stream. In addition, some year groups do not have fulltime teaching assistants. We cannot cross staff over from one class to another to facilitate this as it would



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mean mixing bubbles and increase the chance of transmission. Lower numbers in school will facilitate more live streaming, particularly in KS1.

I will be contacting parents of Y2 children working remotely on an individual basis as we are not yet able to facilitate an additional live session at this time due to the high numbers in Year 2 presently in school and the use of the adults to cover this in two locations. We appreciate this does not seem fair but we are working on a solution and would like to seek your opinion as to how we move forwards.

We also appreciate that all families are different: age and number of siblings, working expectations of parents in their own jobs and that some of the timings and expectations may be a little tricky for some. All we can say is that we are doing our very best to accommodate as many families as possible, but with 67% of our school community working remotely, we will not be able to please everyone. We warmly welcome any feedback and will continue to listen to parents and use their feedback to help our remote learning evolve.

### Places in school

As mentioned in earlier correspondence, we have seen over a 500% increase in the number of children coming into school in comparison to March 2020. The revised guidance states that if you are a critical worker then your child can come to school but, if you are at home (even if you are working) then you should keep your child at home. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to those parents who are already doing this however hard it may be.

Initially, we stated that if your child had a place in school because you are a critical worker, then it would need to be full time. However, with the number of cases rising and transmission rates higher, we are changing this. We are making a heartfelt plea to all parents who have critical worker status to revise their need for a place for their child in school every day. We are able to operate a flexible system if you work shift patterns or only need the morning session.

A reduction to numbers in school will impact on the school's capacity to provide more support to our remote learners who are the majority, reduce the chances of transmission of COVID-19 and ultimately save lives.

If you are able to support us with this, please can you email me on my headteacher email:  
[newchurch\\_primary\\_head@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:newchurch_primary_head@warrington.gov.uk)

Children who are attending school because they have an EHCP or for other reasons (identified under the vulnerable category) can remain to do so.

### Lateral Flow Tests

Having enough staff to provide both face to face and online learning is vital to the continuation of the provision of blended learning. Therefore, from next week all staff will be having a Lateral Flow Test. The test provides a reading of positive or negative (and in some cases inconclusive) within 30 minutes. As members of staff could potentially be in close contact with asymptomatic children, this is our way of ensuring that the virus is not transmitted unknowingly, that the children and other members of staff are kept safe as well as their own families. Of course, this could mean that classes may need to isolate



should a test come back positive; once again reinforcing the need for reduced numbers in school to limit the chances of this occurring.

### February Half Term Holidays

A few parents have made enquiries as to whether the school will be open to critical workers and vulnerable children in the half term holidays. There is no current expectation on schools to provide childcare at this current time. Seeing as it was not expected in the summer, October or Christmas holidays, it is very unlikely that we will be expected to provide it this half term. Therefore, we would suggest that you start to think about alternative provision if you require it.

### Reading

Reading is fundamental to the children's development. KS2 children have Reading Plus accounts and we are delighted to report that we are seeing real progress in their reading speed and comprehension skills. Well done, KS2 children!

This week, KS1 children will receive details of how to log in to <https://www.getepic.com/> This was recommended by one of our parents and it is great! Your child's teacher will be able to assign books linked to their current phonics skills, current reading level and their interests on a weekly basis just like they would change their reading books. There are also audio books for children to listen to. Children who attend school will be using this website also. This will be in place by Friday.

As always, we are very grateful for all that you are doing and your continued dedication to the education of your children and your partnership with the school. Once again, apologies for the intrusion at the weekend.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher

