



# Coxheath Primary School

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## Weekly Update – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I must start this week by saying a huge well done for getting through the first week of home learning. I appreciate how challenging this can be, particularly if you are having to deal with children in different year groups.

As we would all expect, there have been some technical issues as we all adapt and get used to this new way of working. I would ask that you please remain patient if you have an issue and have requested support via the office or the learning platform that your child is using. Teachers are also adapting to this new way of teaching and they will often be dealing with 50+ children at any given time and the many questions they will be asking.

Of course, having children in school with face to face teaching is what we all desperately want. Unfortunately, this not going to be possible this term. I can assure you that teachers are working incredibly hard to ensure that the online learning is the best that it can be. Teachers are already improving and adapting what they are currently doing and will continue to do so as we move through the term.

The Department for Education have provided clear guidance of what we are expected to do as school when delivering home learning. Just to clarify, teachers are not expected to deliver live lessons via a camera link direct to pupils. All teachers will be providing weekly/daily face to face contact via Zoom or Google Meet and some will be uploading pre-recorded lessons for children to access. In each year group there will be one teacher in school teaching children of critical worker parents and one teacher at home delivering and responding to the online learning. Teaching assistants will be supporting children both at home and in school. On the subject of Zoom meetings, please can we ask that when your child is on zoom, younger siblings are supervised and if it does become noisy, then the mute button is activated!

Keeping everyone safe is our number one priority until the virus is more controlled. The government advice continues to be that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Please ensure that you keep your child at home if at all possible.

We are also working with a skeleton office staff in the school. Part of the reason is to limit the number of people in one office. We also have staff who are still recovering having caught Covid over the Christmas period. I know how incredibly efficient the office team normally are but please be patient and allow a little of extra time for a response if you have contacted the office with a query.

Due to the reduced number of children attending school, we will be changing the start and end time of the school day. **The day will start at 9:45am and finish at 3pm for all children.** At the present time, we will continue to run both breakfast club and afterschool club. This is subject to change and will be dependent on numbers in the coming weeks.

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The weather has certainly turned colder this week and we have all felt the chill. The guidance is to keep rooms well ventilated and whilst we are keeping a close eye on the temperature in the class, it will certainly not be as warm as the children are used to. Please send your child in with an extra layer. Please do not worry if this is not school uniform.

Once again, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns or suggestions of things we could do to improve. I know how difficult this is for both parents and children and I can only hope that this is the last term where the children's learning is so disrupted.

Things can only get better!

Giacomo Mazza

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