

Headlines

15th January 2021



Dear Parents

At Ongar and at home it seems we are all settling into our new routine.

Children who are able to attend school are busy doing the learning set by their teachers in the morning and then taking part in some other activities in the afternoon.

Staff across the school are all working incredibly hard to ensure that children are safe and happy in school and are learning.

If you need provision and think you may be entitled to it please check with the guidance below:

Full list:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> and contact the school to discuss our capacity.

Lunch Support

If your child is entitled to free school meals because you have a low income or are on benefits you are entitled to a food pack. These contain lots of great ingredients to make lunch with. If you live locally we will be delivering these, hopefully on Monday afternoon.

As you have probably seen on the news there is much debate around the packs. Just to remind you the packs are meant to provide a lunch for a primary age child for 5 days. There is new guidance coming out all the time so I am constantly reviewing our provision and will let you know if there are any major changes.

Remote Learning

There has been some amazing remote learning going on across the school this week. I was listening to some of our Chestnuts using their phonics to sound out words and was very impressed with Nathan's puppet retelling of a creation story. If you are struggling to get on-line don't hesitate to let us know.

Today, I have also sent out the remote learning intention. This contains guidance for parents and children regarding our offer. This is obviously a whole new area for us. We need to work together to ensure that we are doing the best we can for our children.

One point I would like to highlight. There has been a lot of coverage about children in primary schools doing up to 4 hours online learning. This does not mean that they should be sitting in front of a screen for this amount of time. It also counts the time when they are doing PE activities, writing their stories, making their science structures, reading their books. There are so many pressures on us all at the moment – be kind to yourselves!

Teachers are attempting to call the parents of children in their class to check how learning is going. Don't hesitate to ask any questions or ask for help or advice.

Staying Active

Hopefully the children are managing to stay active and are able to fill in the Active Calendar Challenge regularly. The children in school are having 2 sessions every week with either Mr Good or Mr Mazzone (from PS Sports).

On Tuesday, the upper key stage 2 children played basketball and the key stage one children worked on developing their ball skills. The children are also enjoying dancing along with Jump Start Jonny and Just Dance. Some children are being active with Joe Wicks, some trampolining and others are using the ideas from Getset4PE. You could try out an activity, take a picture and send it to your teacher on Seesaw. Here are pictures of Maya and Sienna taking part in the blindfold obstacle challenge and Frazer and Eleanor keeping fit with Joe.

Parking

I understand the need to want to get as close to the school as possible on these miserable morning but parking on the pavements and forcing pedestrians to walk on the road is not acceptable – Please be aware of others.



Eleanor and Frazer having fun!