



Kineton Green Primary School

Spring 2021—Issue 8 (15.01.2021)

Head Teacher's News

HAPPY NEWYEAR!

Welcome back to the new term and a New Year. We are full of hope that 2021 will bring an end to the virus and a return to normality. The drive and resilience our scientists have shown, to bring us several vaccines which could bring about the turning point we so desperately need, is phenomenal.

Having returned to school on Monday 4th January and then be told the UK would have to be placed into a third National lockdown that night was a blow. Returning, fully open from September, we were just starting to get back to a real focus on the learning for all our children in school (albeit still in bubbles) for us then to be thrown back into a split between home and school learning again was disappointing, though we know necessary to stem the spread of the new COVID variant.

We can only try to understand how difficult it, once again, is for many of you who are having to juggle working from home whilst supporting the home learning for your child/children.

During the last lockdown school used Class Dojo as a platform for learning. We have now moved onto 'Teams,' a platform many may be familiar with but for some a completely new challenge. We thank you for bearing with us.

REMOTE LEARNING

The majority of our pupils are now learning from home. As a school we are providing remote learning via 'Teams,' for all these pupils. Not only is this a change for yourselves but it is also a change and a learning curve for my staff. We have listened to your feedback from the first period of home learning and have and will continue to refine and improve this provision. My staff are working on rotas, with bubbles in year group pairs, one week in school then once a week from home. Every member of my staff is setting remote learning activities, making learning videos to support these and carrying out 'live' catch up sessions twice a week. They are also picking up the work handed in and providing feedback as well as answering messages from pupils and parents. For the teachers who are working in school they are doing this alongside teaching the pupils during the day. I am very sure that the same situation is in place at many of our children's homes with parents working as well as trying to support their child's home learning. These are difficult times and we are all working extremely hard to do the best we can to ensure our children are happy and continue to progress.

We are monitoring the activities being set and the responses we are receiving from our pupils. Teams is very good in this respect, as it registers whether the work has been viewed and whether it has been handed in. We do have concerns that some of our pupils do not appear to be viewing or submitting work at all or not on a regular basis. We want to support pupils, where this is the case, to help find out what the issues may be that are preventing them doing so. We realise that these reasons may be wide and varied.

Some parents have been in touch if they have no devices for their children to work on, some who are struggling with internet connections. Where we know this is the case we have been supporting where we are able. We will be in touch as soon as we can with all parents whose children do not appear to be accessing the work to find out what the issues may be and to see how we can help. I would stress that it is vital that children do take part in learning activities and opportunities to learn otherwise this will have a dramatic effect on their future learning when we do, and we will, open the school doors to all our pupils again.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd, 3rd, 4th Feb—
Parents Evenings

24th Feb—FS2 & Yr6
NCMP Height &
Weight Checks



Head Teacher's News—Continued

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

We know that, as it currently stands, the closure for schools will be in place until at least February half term and possibly extend beyond this date. With the vaccine now being rolled out on a national basis we are now in a race between stemming the spread of the virus and inoculating as many people as possible. We can all play a part and as such I would urge you to follow the guidelines to keep yourself and others as safe as we can. I would especially like to remind you that households should not be mixing at this time. It can be so frustrating and concerning when some of the children we have in school openly speak about visiting friends and having sleep overs. We are all trying so desperately to keep your children safe in school – one visit or sleep over could bring the virus into school, closing bubbles down, resulting in key worker parents having to stay at home unable to carry out jobs that are vital to keep the nation going.

We would also ask parents to carefully consider before requesting places in school for your children. The government guidance and definition of key workers has changed and is broader than in previous national lock downs. The message, however, is still clear **that if your children can stay at home then that is the safest place for them.** We have nearly 40% of our children currently in school. Our role in this pandemic is to support those vulnerable pupils and key worker parents who have no other childcare options and are unable to work from home. So again I would urge you that even if you are a key worker but there is another adult at home then please help us all by not requesting a place at school.

Earlier today we sent out a message from Louise Rees -Director of Children Services and Skills, we would urge you to read.

ATTENDANCE

In the current circumstances please could you email the office if your child is ill and is unable to participate in home learning. This is the same as letting us know if your child is unable to come into school under normal (pre COVID) times.

THE SCHOOL OFFICE

The office is still being manned each day but they are being swamped with phone calls. In order to help us, help you, please do not ring unless it is urgent, instead please email and the office staff will ensure they get back to you as soon as possible.

It is still vitally important that you inform school if you or one of your family members (who lives with you) tests positive for COVID-19. If you or your child have symptoms of Coronavirus we would ask that you go for a test, self-isolate until the results come back and let school know, via the school email. If the test is positive school will send information to the bubble and staff it may affect and who may need to isolate.

Parents and carers should refrain from sending your child into school if they have one or more symptoms of the virus;

- A new or continuous cough
- Loss or change of taste or smell
- A fever/high temperature

If your child has one or more of these symptoms, please ring 119 or go to the government website to book a test. Please inform school with the result of the test. If negative your child can return to school straight away.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are entitled to free school meals and wish to receive a food parcel please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can get these to you. We will be sending out a School Comms today with further details.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS

Just a reminder that the closing date for Nursery applications is 31st January 2021. Please send applications to the school office via the office email office@kineton-green.solihull.sch.uk or by post.

Gold Book



Class	w/c 11th January 2021	
FS1	Ellianah K Bee Award—Chloe W Home Learner—Rosalind T	
F52	Eden W Bee Award—Ella M Home Learner—Megan C	
Year 1 & 2	Finley D Bee Award—Aayah A Home Learner Yr1—Alfie D Home Learner Yr2—Charlie G	
Year 3 & 4	Muhammed G Bee Award - Jessica Hill Home Learner Yr3—Henry H Home Learner Yr4—Ryan H	
Year 5 & 6	Lucie W Bee Award— Emily H Home Learner Yr5—Sam W Home Learner Yr6—Lilly B	

