



18th Jan 2021

Dear Welton Family,

It is almost two weeks since the Prime Minister announced that schools were closing. It seems much longer; I imagine this is for several reasons; the fact that we haven't seen our families since December and the extremely difficult circumstances we are trying to cope with.

I am confident we can get through this together, the support and regard our Welton Family has for each other has never been so strong. It will help us be patient when we are frustrated, compassionate when those around us feel despair and resilient when we want to give up.

It might be helpful to provide a brief summary of the current organisational context:

- Teachers are teaching their Year Group in school for a week and then working from home the next week, managing remote learning for their year group and planning the following week's remote learning.
- Teachers are working differently. Planning, producing and then recording home learning lessons is a much lengthier process than planning school-based lessons.
- Teachers are only able to make phone calls the weeks they are working in school, but partner teachers, phase leaders, SENCO and SLT are available to help during the working day.
- Mrs Pidgeon and Mrs Saleh are in school full time.
- Mrs Duffin (SENCO) is working between home and school but has a school phone at home, so can make phone calls during school hours.

We have received some common themes of feedback and queries so I would like to share some of these with the whole school community.

Why is the school not providing "live lessons"?

There is no requirement to provide live lessons. More importantly, our recent survey demonstrated that many of our families are sharing devices between siblings and parents. It would not be possible to timetable live lessons to navigate this. In addition, in many year groups both the Year classrooms are occupied by pupils, leaving nowhere for live lessons to be "broadcast". We believe that providing lessons recorded by the class teachers across a range of subjects is leading to more children accessing more learning across a week.

Why is the school "allowing" parents to send their children to school who don't need to?

As you know, the Government has said that parents whose job is critical to the Covid crisis and the EU transition can send their child to school but should endeavour not to do so. We have asked and continue to ask that children are only sent to school if the parent has no alternative. The hardship we are currently enduring is to save as many lives as possible, as quickly as possible. It is important to remember that the role should be a current one i.e., you should be working and that it is critical to COVID-19 or EU transition.

What is the purpose of the daily check ins?

These are brief meetings to allow each Year Group to feel part of our family. This week, the excitement should subside and each morning the children should quickly mute their devices to allow the teacher to run through the day's timetable and work. At the afternoon meeting, the teachers will give feedback on the day's common misconceptions and if time, screen share some successes. If you did not receive the times for each year Groups meetings, please see below. Your child (or parent) needs to sign into Teams using their school email and password, they then wait to join the meeting, no invites are sent out. This now seems to be working well.

What is the purpose of the feedback summary?

The school is trying to use a range of ways of providing feedback to children and parents. This was intended to be simple, positive and encouraging. If you do not feel it is helpful, please let us know you do not wish to receive a summary and we will let the class teacher know. We do not want to fill your inbox with unwanted mail.

Why do we have to email the school office to contact class teachers?

The teachers are currently working very differently. In the previous lockdown schools were asked to provide "childcare" for key workers and staff attended work on a rota and were at home for the majority of this time. In this lockdown, the teacher in school is teaching in the classroom all day and not available to respond to questions etc. The teacher working from home is marking work, responding to pupil questions, providing feedback, and creating the next weeks recorded lessons. The teacher working at home does not have the capacity to respond to emails from the whole year group (up to 64 families). Therefore, emailing the school office with as much detail as possible as to your query and how we can help, will enable us to ensure someone gets in touch as soon as possible.

Contact us at office@weltonprimaryschool.com

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed the survey. It seems that last week was successful for many of our remote learners. In English, work is generally of the right quantity and at the right level. More of you felt there was too much rather than too little. In Maths, although overall the quantity and level are appropriate for most, a few more parents felt it was too easy. In other subjects, most parents are happy. We will of course look at this feedback in Year Groups to see how we can continue to improve. Around 17% of parents feel there is too much work overall and we will consider ways of addressing this on a Year group by Year group basis.

Previous Weeks Learning Resources

We have created an archived area in each year groups remote learning folder where we will save the previous weeks resources in case you want to revisit anything.

Year Group meetings for children

Year group	Morning meetings		Afternoon meetings	
Year 6	9.15am	From 13 th Jan	3.00pm	From Wed 13 th Jan
Year 5	9.45am	From Thursday 14 th	3.20 pm	From Wed 13 th Jan
Year 4	9.35am	From Friday 15 th Jan	3.05 pm	From Thursday 14 th Jan
Year 3	9.25am	From Monday 18 th Jan	3.05 pm	From Friday 15 th Jan
Year 2	9.05am	From Wednesday 20 th Jan	2.50pm	From Monday 18 th Jan
Year 1	8.55am	From Wednesday 20 th Jan	2.50pm	From Monday 18 th Jan

A thought for the time- An aim for the Welton Family

"Feelings of worth flourish in an atmosphere where differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, and communication is open; an atmosphere found in a nurturing family." **Virginia Satir**

Kindest regards



Mrs N Pidgeon