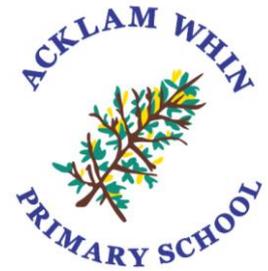


# ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Preparing our children for their future.”



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15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Thank you for all your support in helping each other to get through this second very challenging week in and out of school.**

Presently, we have our second member of staff poorly and isolating with Covid 19, a growing number of parents who have tested positive this week and our neighbouring school, Kader Academy, closed due to a large number of staff and pupils also testing positive. This is still a very anxious and worrying time for our community and we really do appreciate the measures you are taking for everyone's benefits.

Many thanks to those critical workers who have modified their arrangements where they can, to reduce the risks of contact and mixing in school. We know so many of you are relying on us for you to continue to go out to work and have no choice – and we will remain open for as long as we can for you. The instruction from the Public Health has been reiterated to us again this week to share with you - *“Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.”*

This week you will have been contacted by a member of our staff (remember they will be calling from an 'Unknown Number') to see how you and your family are doing and offer any support we can. We will do this every week and if you need help with remote learning, device problems, health concerns, welfare issues – whatever it is, please talk to the staff when they call, and we will do all we can to help.

Thank you for the feedback on the remote learning activities. We know you have such a range of circumstances at home as you are grappling with learning from home and work and childcare. It is good to know our approach of daily blocks of recorded teaching, activities and work allow you the flexibility to manage the activities at times that suit you and your arrangements.

Over the coming weeks, teachers are going to trial some short Zoom 'Get Togethers' to reconnect the children at home with their classmates and staff, at different times during the week. Your teachers will be in touch with the arrangement and links for meetings. **Here are a few guidelines for parents and children:**

- Children's cameras will be on and microphones will be muted at the beginning of the session but there will be opportunities for shared discussion and questions.
- Children need to be present for the beginning of the meeting, as it will be difficult for staff to add them once the session has begun.
- Please can parents be present at the beginning of the session in case of any support needed to join the 'Get together.'
- Children will need to be dressed and ready for the session.
- Parents and children should not share the meeting link with anyone outside of the year group or on social media.
- Children /adults should not take photographs or record during the session.
- If we have any safeguarding concerns during the meeting, it will be ended immediately.
- The aim of the 'Get togethers' is to provide an opportunity to reconnect the children and staff face to face and discuss any news or any issues the children may be having at home with the work.

If you have any questions, issues or concerns regarding the Zoom 'Get Togethers', please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher. There are many technical and safeguarding issues related to this, so please bear with us as we try and get this right. If you are new to Zoom here is a simple little guide:

<https://www.littledayout.com/parents-students-guide-how-to-use-zoom/>

Our friends at Middlesbrough Community Learning can also offer additional services and support. They are able to support parents as much as they can during these difficult times with many health and wellbeing courses, as well as supporting parents with homeschooling their children, using Zoom etc. They also have partners who are offering free tablets with some of their courses, providing individuals meet the criteria. For more details, please contact Joanne Melton via email: [joanne.melton@mcls.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.melton@mcls.ac.uk) or phone: 01642 811400

Parents of children who are entitled to a free school meal will, from next week, have your vouchers provided by the National Voucher Scheme run by the Government. As you will remember from last year, this wasn't always smooth sailing and already, their website has crashed today. We will do all we can to ensure you get your vouchers asap.

**As always, if you would like to contact us for any support or advice, please call 01642 813938 or email [awcontact@acklamwhin.co.uk](mailto:awcontact@acklamwhin.co.uk). We are still here for you and our families and if we can help get you through these difficult times, we will do our best.**

Thank you for your constant support. We wish you and your families a lovely, safe weekend.

Mr Gamble