

## Moving forward together

### Learning at Home

Last September staff worked really hard to improve the home learning offer for children who had to quarantine due to being contacts of positive cases. Now that we are in national lockdown we recognise that our home learning needs to develop further. Our first action is to set up **morning registration** for home learners. You will receive detailed information about this, but all children at home will be required to have a google meeting with a teacher at either 9.45 or 10.15 every day. The teacher will greet the children, go through the learning for the day and answer any questions from children. While parents will be asked to support their children in accessing the meeting, teachers will not be able to answer questions from parents, it will be a children's meeting only. We think that this will greatly help in getting all children started on their learning for the day. Once this is working successfully, our home learning will evolve and develop further.

### Critical Worker Places in School

As you know, schools were given no notice that they were going to be closed. As a result places for critical workers had to be set up very quickly and we acknowledge that mistakes were made. We are waiting for guidance from the DfE and the Local Authority. Once this is received, we will be reviewing our places for the children of critical workers. As there is more demand than places available, it is very likely that we will require critical workers to re-apply for their school places, submitting evidence from their employer about the critical nature of their role and the hours they work and stating that there is no one else who can safely look after their child(ren). It is vital that critical worker child places are only used when absolutely necessary in order to reduce numbers and the spread of the virus.

### Vulnerable Children Places in School

Nationally, vulnerable children are given the top priority for places in school. If your child already has a vulnerable child's place, this will not change. It is likely that more vulnerable children will be identified for places and this will then reduce the amount of critical worker places than can be offered.

### Laptops

Please let school know straight away if you have no suitable device on which your child can access, or can have shared access to, online learning. It should be possible to access morning registration on a smart phone. Carterknowle has received an allocation of 22 laptops from the government. Holt House has not been given any government laptops, but does have ten Lenovo think pads. These are all prioritised for children eligible for free school meals (low income families).

### Phonecall Meetings with Teachers

Phonecall meetings with Holt House teachers have been published on the calendar of events for January. In view of the current situation, these are postponed.

### SATs and other Assessments

It has been in the news that all external assessments have been cancelled, including the phonics check, Y2 assessments and Y6 SATs. We will however be making our own assessments at the end of the year, so that we have detailed knowledge to pass onto the next class/school, which will help your child's next teacher to plan to meet their needs. This means that F2 children will be assessed to see if they are meeting the early learning goals, Y1 will be given a phonics check, Y2 children will be assessed according to end of KS1 criteria, Y4 children will have a times tables check and Y6 will have maths and reading SATs in June. It is therefore really important that all children engage with home learning. F2 and Y2 children cannot be assessed as meeting national expectations unless they have completed their whole curriculum to the required standard. Y6 children on the National Tutoring Scheme must attend their weekly session in school. Your child's assessment results will be reported to you on their annual report.

### Moving Forward Together

We are devastated that we are in National Lockdown again and are not allowed to have all children in school. This is causing many difficulties and challenges, which, for some, is giving rise to frustration. Please do not get annoyed with school staff; it is upsetting. We are all doing our best to manage a situation that is beyond our control and we will only get through it if we all support each other.

*with best wishes - Mrs Haynes*