



# Welbeck Primary School

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Dear home-schooling parents/carers,

A huge well done for managing three weeks of home schooling so well. After doing one day of it with 3 children, I can fully appreciate how absolutely challenging it must be to do it for a prolonged period of time. Thank you so much for having the patience to try each day. If on some days, it all gets too much, please take a break. You are doing your best and that is good enough. Once we are open, we will catch every child up like we did in June of last year. Please don't panic about their progress. Life is stressful enough right now. My main concern is you and your child's well being-please focus on that when needed.

The class teachers have been delighted with the work your children are completing. Teachers are logged on and ready to support from 8.30am every day, if you need any help please email them via the Purple Mash or ring school and they will ring you from their homes. After 4.30pm they will be planning for the next day so if you can try to encourage your children to complete their work by then that would be very helpful but again, if things are difficult that day-that's fine too. It's ok to miss a day!

So far, we have lent out over 60 devices to children and provided internet access so that everyone has equal access to learn from home. I hope that the lesson videos, differentiated activities, assemblies, competitions, stationary packs and phone calls have provided you and your child with the support you need. Please let us know if there is **anything we can do** to help you with your child's learning at home. If you get chance, please Tweet any examples of your child's learning, we love to see what they are getting up to!

#### **In school cases:**

The last two weeks in school has been challenging as there were three bubble closures due to staff contracting the virus. I am pleased to say that all staff are recovering well and are retuning back to school plus no children were affected. I want to take this opportunity to thank my team for being on site daily to provide our F1 children, Critical Worker and Vulnerable children with a place in school. We have between 120-130 children attending school everyday so we are by no means 'closed' as the Government suggests.

On some days, class teachers come to school to teach their children on site then rush back at lunch to carry out remote learning- we are essentially running two schools at the moment so things are incredibly busy. You may have seen that Boris Johnson has said that the aim is to re-open schools on 8<sup>th</sup> March. He has promised to give two week's notice this time so I will be in touch towards the end of February with more details of how that will work.

#### **Family support:**

Our FSM vouchers system has now moved to the Government's Eden Red voucher system-these vouchers will be emailed to you weekly if you qualify. If your circumstances have changed due to redundancy or a reduction in working hours, please ring our Family Support worker, Lucy Coull as you may qualify for this support. Our school food bank has provided 80 food parcels this week-we hoped they helped. Please ring school if you would like a parcel and we can arrange one for you.

Whilst this time is extremely challenging for us all, hope is on the horizon. Cases are reducing daily and the vaccination programme is well under way.

Please look after yourselves and we hope to see you all very soon.

Warm regards,

Rebecca Gittins

Headteacher

