Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and although I am writing to you to inform you of some changes we have made in response to the Remote Learning Survey I am also writing to remind you that you are all doing an amazing job right now.

What we are all being asked to do is really tough; whether you are a working parent, working from home, a stay-at-home parent or a teacher, doing your best is enough. It is difficult to help support your child with their education when this is not your normal role. Trying to motivate your child to keep on top of their learning is likely to put a strain on all relationships within the household. This is particularly difficult with younger children where your input is more necessary. I must stress that your wellbeing as a parent is most important. If you are feeling stressed and anxious this will inevitably disseminate down to your children. The most dominant message that resonated throughout the feedback from the survey was the amount of pressure that you, the parents are under trying to fulfil so many roles and changes as well as keeping everybody safe and contained indoors.

The responses we received from our Remote Learning Survey were incredibly positive and I appreciate the supportive comments that were written. We have taken on board some of the suggestions and in response have made the following changes:

**New times for Zoom lessons**

It is evident that our youngest children struggle the most when it comes to accessing lessons in the afternoon. Therefore, we have moved some Zoom sessions so that we can fit more sessions into the morning for our youngest children.

9.00-10.00 – Year 3 and 4

10.00 – 11.00 – Year 1 and Reception

11.00-12.00 – Year 2

12.00 – 1.00 – Year 5

1.00 – 2.00 – Year 6

2.00 – 3.00 – Check in session for all year groups

**Additional Check-in time**

We have also added a session at the end of the day at 2.00pm – 3.00pm for children to check in with their teacher to let them know how they have got on during the day. This will not be a teaching session and will be optional. These revised Zoom times will begin after half term (Monday 22nd February).

Teachers will still be on hand by email throughout the school hours to help where needed.

**Parent Consultations**

We would also like to provide a 10-minute session for parents with the teacher. This session would be for the teacher to be able to feedback to parents on how your children have been doing not just over the lockdown but the progress they made over the Autumn Term. Parents will also have the opportunity to share with their child’s teacher any concerns they may have regarding how they have managed Remote Learning. We propose to have these meetings on Friday the 26th February. This would mean there would be no Zoom lessons on this day. More details will be sent out on how to book a session with your child’s class teacher, after half term.

I hope these changes help with some of the difficulties some parents were having. I understand the changes will not suit everybody, but it is important that we try our best to ensure that we are providing the best Remote Learning package that we can for all children.

Thank you all for trusting the team at Old Stratford Primary School and engaging so well with remote learning. Whether you access the online lessons through Zoom, use the Century Platform, use the videos and resources on Tapestry, work through paper packs or a combination of these, we are amazed at how resilient and supportive you have been.

Our teachers and support staff are doing a phenomenal job of managing remote learning for children at home, provision for the children in school, providing feedback and maintaining contact with the children and parents. Their workload has increased significantly over the past few weeks and I trust you will agree that they are an amazing team who have always focused on what is best for the children, whilst putting their own worries around COVID aside.

We will all need to keep going for a few weeks longer to get through this difficult time. But not before we all down tools and enjoy a week off for Half Term. I must remind parents of children that have been in school, to contact the school immediately if their child tests positive for COVID over the half term break within 2 days of being in school. (office@oldstratford.northants.sch.uk)

Have a lovely week next week – hopefully we will get some better weather so that we can all get outdoors into the fresh air. Please feel free to send me some half term photos of you all enjoying some family time as this time that we have is just as important as the time we spend doing school work.

Best wishes,

Mrs Sarbutts