



Dear parents and carers,

We have now entered the fifth week of lockdown, and are beginning to settle into a new pattern and a new reality. Life for all of us has changed beyond recognition; it continues to be very challenging in many ways.

As you know, I have asked all teachers to make a phone call to the children in their class. The teachers will ask them how they are and how they are getting on with their work. This is nice for the children and very useful for teachers in terms of feedback.

Some parents have asked us to consider teaching lessons by Zoom or other online platforms. I can see why that could be good, but we have been given advice by safeguarding experts that this is not very safe, and we are not encouraged to do this. In addition, many of our families do not have a strong enough WiFi signal, technical knowledge or a device such as a laptop or tablet to access this.

However, children who use Purple Mash or Mathletics are getting feedback from their teachers, so please encourage your children to use these resources. Very high quality work is being planned for children on a daily basis, please use this to support children's home learning during this challenging time.

Please do not worry about your children falling behind, we will make sure we will do everything we can to ensure all children are able to catch up over time.

I am expecting that the Government will announce soon if and when Primary schools can re-open. I expect that this will happen at some point in June, but I have not been told any more than what we hear in the media. When we re-open, we must make sure we do this safely, which will probably mean that we will not have all children in at the same time, so we can maintain social distancing as much as possible. We will start planning for this as soon as we are told to do this and I will keep you informed.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all staff who have worked tirelessly, both at home and at school. In particular I am grateful to Beth, who has done most of the childcare days. Other staff, such as the admin and pastoral teams, have also gone 'over and beyond' to support our families; many are in very vulnerable and difficult positions.

I hope you are all well and that you are managing to keep safe.

Wishing you all the best,

Edith Philipsen

Headteacher Smithy Street Primary School