

Dudley House School

Newsletter – 28th January 2021



Dear Parents,

First can I say a big thank you and well done to you all for doing your best during these difficult times.

It has certainly been a challenging time for us all and I want to express my sincere appreciation to those key workers who still have to go to work, when they would feel safer working from home; to those who are supporting their children with remote learning whilst also trying to work from home etc.; and to all the staff who have worked incredibly hard to adapt learning to enable all children to access the same curriculum whether at home or in school. It has certainly been a mammoth task.

I had fervently hoped that we would be able to welcome all the children back to school after the half term break, but I was dismayed last night when we learnt that this would be unlikely before the 8th March.

We miss having the children in school terribly, even though we see them virtually each day, and we know it is much easier for you as parents and us having the children all in school. However, we understand that the government needs everyone to stay at home, wherever possible, to reduce the spread of this terrible virus that is causing horrendous illness and loss of life to so many. Thank you for doing your part to follow the rules by staying at home and not mixing with other households.

For those of you whose children are completing their lessons at home, as a mum of two boys I know how hard this can be, even just for a short time. So just try your best, don't stress when things don't go exactly to plan - be kind to yourselves. We know that we have high expectations here and have set lots of work each week. Everyone's circumstances are different – all we ask is for you to do your best – this may be just a quick 30 minutes here and another session there... that's ok! If your child does all the work... that is ok too! Please do not let school work put undue pressure on you when you are trying to hold down jobs, earn a living and keep your children safe and happy. Please let us know if we can help.

We adapted and improved our remote learning offer based on our experiences from the last lockdown and hope that this improved provision is working much better for you. We have added a section on the school website under 'Information for parents' section that sets out.

<http://dudleyhouseschool.co.uk/information-for-parents/remote-education-provision/>

We know that some schools put resources on the website for parents to find for themselves, but we wanted to make things as easy as possible for you by sending you the timetable, information, website links and resources that you will need in the home learning pack.

In school, as teachers, we adapt and change things depending on how the children respond or from observations and assessments that we make, but this is more challenging with some of the children being at home. Therefore, any feedback on what is working well, things you would like to see more of, what's not going so well, etc. will certainly help the staff as they plan future learning and continue improving our remote provision. We want to continue working in partnership with you to provide the best quality learning that we can in this difficult situation.

Times are tough at the moment ... our mental health is taking a battering. The dark, cold, wet and snowy weather has certainly not helped, so we need to help and support each other to get through this.

Finally. We may be 'closed' to some pupils, but we are still here emotionally for all of our families. If you need support... a chat... a virtual cuppa... a cry... we are here for you!

Be kind to yourself and take care.

With kind regards

Jenny Johnson (Headteacher)