



# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Happy New Year everyone. I hope that you managed to have a break over Christmas. Celebrations were undoubtedly different to what everyone had planned. After what was certainly a 2020 that was memorable for a range of very different reasons, I really hope that 2021's tough beginning is going to mark the beginning of the end of the restrictions and challenges that surrounds COVID-19.

We have shared many communications with you since Monday evening at 8pm when the Prime minister shared his expectations about the upcoming weeks. As has become customary, guidance follows these announcements. The most recent guidance was updated yesterday. We will use this to continue to guide what we do, along with our colleagues in the local authority. As a cluster, we work closely together with our neighbouring schools to support each other too, and try and offer as much consistency as we can, personalised to our own schools.

Coming with the newsletter today is further information about what you can expect from us in terms of supporting your child with home learning, whether they are working at home every day or just some days. Please be reassured that the children in school and at home are getting the same learning opportunities. What we are keen to do is increase the opportunities for your child working at home to have access to the teacher/teaching time.

Next week we will send you more information – this will be in the form of an outline of what we can expect from you and you from us through the Google Meet live calls. We will also send a short survey to ascertain your level of technology access to gather an overview for our community of if there are any shortages of devices or internet access which would potentially prevent any family being unable to access online provision. We will use this information to apply for more more resources for school that we can therefore loan to families if these would be of assistance.

I know that we have sent you vast amounts of information. As a parent myself, I have received the same volume of information from the schools my children attend. On top of everything else that you are all dealing with in your own lives, I appreciate this can feel overwhelming. Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support or help in any way.

I would like to end this week by thanking you all for your supportive feedback after what has been another challenging week in everyone's lives. I would also like to thank the amazing team at Kings Cope for everything that they do day in day out, and for their commitment since Monday to getting everything ready for this lockdown. One of the biggest of our challenges has been that each set of restrictions and lockdowns have been different and we have had to set things up differently each time, with guidance that regularly changes. None of us have been trained to teach with any of these circumstances, and I could not have asked the whole staff team to work any harder, be any more brilliant or be any more supportive of the children and families in our school.

**COVID and self-isolation** - Please refer to the information sent out previously about continuing to update us with children/family members having tests for COVID or self-isolation due to symptoms. This remains relevant if your child is in school or has been in school, or is due to be in school. Miss Hewitt and I will be manning the email inbox which we have set up for this. Please contact us with any information about this on this email address: [covid@kingsapps.co.uk](mailto:covid@kingsapps.co.uk).

*Hayley Ferguson and the whole team at Kings Cope*

**INSET dates 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021**