



'Love to learn: learn to love'

Dame Tipping C. E. Primary School
North Road
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Headteacher: Ms A. Holmes

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

National Lockdown and School Closures

I am sure that many of you are still comprehending the news that from tomorrow we will go into a national lockdown, once again. Whilst we are extremely upset that this means now closing our school to most pupils until at least February half term we understand the important part that we have to play in protecting our pupils, staff and community. As a school we feel fortunate that we had prepared for a partial closure due to the local restrictions but it has still meant that we have had to make some changes to ensure the safety of pupils and staff for whom school remains open to.

I know that the announcement most likely brought back those feelings of uncertainty that we all felt in March 2020 and the worry of having to home-school once again. Unlike the first national lockdown where we didn't know what was to come or have systems in place but learnt so much so quickly first time round that will support us through this time.

Since the first school closures the expectation set out by the Government for remote learning has changed and so too has our provision for remote learning. As a school we are in agreement that the focus MUST be on remote learning to ensure that the children continue to build on their knowledge and cover the curriculum during school closure and the staff have been working hard to ensure that the children have what they need and can access work at home.

As many of you know we are now using Google Classroom. The remote learning will be set each day in the same format for the children to access. We have handpicked the content and resources to continue to support and develop knowledge and skills during school closures. The work is set so that the children can access and work through at your own pace or at a time that is more convenient to your own home circumstances.

It was lovely to see so many of the children accessing Google Classroom this morning and joining the live feedback session. This live session will take place daily at the same time for each class- See below

Live Session Timings

Reception- 10:30am

Year 1&2- 9:30am

Year 3&4-9am

Year 5&6-10am

The Christian value we are learning about this term is 'Courageous optimism'

Dame Tipping Primary School part of LIFE Education Trust. Registered in England & Wales. Company Number: 08102628

Registered Address: The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls, Brentwood Road, Romford. Essex. RM1 2RR



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This isn't a live lesson but an opportunity for teachers to share the work that has been set and discuss and feedback about the work set on the previous day. As we establish a routine we hope to be able to offer more live feedback and support sessions and will also start to look at how we can build in more opportunities for children to access smaller live group sessions throughout the week.

If you are having difficulty accessing or handing in work on Google Classroom we have created a step by step 'how to sheet', which can be found attached with this letter and on the school website, alongside our expectations for attending online sessions.

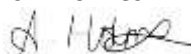
Our Critical worker bubble is now in place at school for pupils whose parents **must** work during the period of national lockdown. The organisation of staff and pupils can only be managed once we know who needs to attend and changes cannot be made easily. If your circumstances change and you no longer need your space or you now require a space, please let us know as soon as possible. Any requests to join the critical worker group should now be sent to office@dametipping.havering.sch.uk

I would also just like to note that we appreciate how difficult it is teaching your own children, and I suspect some of you, like myself, discovered this during the previous lockdown! Although remote learning is doing a wonderful job of bridging home and school, it just isn't possible to replicate the school day completely. Please don't be too hard on yourself or worry if a day doesn't go as planned – there is always tomorrow. You are doing a great job in very challenging circumstances and we are here to support you, every step of the way.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our hugely dedicated staff who have been fantastic over the last few weeks. We have been affected by the virus like most workplaces; we have staff self-isolating as they are clinically vulnerable, staff who tested positive and were required to self-isolate and some staff have been unwell with the virus. Still, they have and will continue to juggle their home life, family commitments and work responsibilities throughout this challenging and ever changing time to support the school as best they can.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,
Ms A Holmes



Headteacher

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