



# Fleet Primary School

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## Parent / Carer update - 28<sup>th</sup> January

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28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent and carers,

As we approach the end of the fourth week of this current lockdown we heard the news yesterday that many of us were expecting but dreading. The Prime Minister announced that schools would not be returning to in school teaching after the upcoming half term break and that there would not be a return before the 8<sup>th</sup> March. He did announce that any decision relating to schools returning from the 8<sup>th</sup> March would be dependent on the picture nearer the time and that they hope to make that decision from 22<sup>nd</sup> February, giving schools time to plan for a return of students. This was not the news we wanted to hear but given the pressures on the NHS and the still very high levels of infection and the number of subsequent deaths we understand why it's been taken.

I want to thank you for the number of positive messages we have had, via email and during phone calls about the work we are doing to support the children. We've been especially pleased with how the switch to 'Seesaw' has gone in years 4-6. Years 1-3 tried it out this week and the feedback again has been positive. From next week, years 1-6 will be using it for delivering, receiving and communicating all their work. If you have any problems accessing anything or are unsure how to get a photo on there, please let us know as soon as you can – either through Seesaw or using the school email.

It's been great to see all the work going on at home – both school set and the amazing things some of you are doing in terms of involving the children in cooking, going on walks and other fun activities – thanks to those of you who helped cheer our spirits last weekend by sharing photos of the children enjoying the snow – some welcome light relief!

We will continue, for the duration of this lockdown, to assess and adjust our remote learning offer to ensure that the children continue to make progress while at the same time being as supportive as we can to each family's individual circumstance. When we are able to open up to all children again we will endeavour, with all the resources at our disposal, to ensure that any lost learning or gaps that have arisen as a result of these closures, will be addressed and the children get to where they need to be.

As we have mentioned in previous communications, and you have probably seen in the media, the number of children coming in to school has increased significantly during this lockdown. At Fleet the numbers coming in are three times what they were during the first lockdown. At the same time as managing this, we have significantly increased the amount of day to day contact with the children – through zoom and calls from the support staff and teachers. From next week, due to increasing numbers of critical worker and vulnerable children in the school, as well as staffing difficulties due to Covid restrictions and impact, we are having to juggle our support staff slightly. It means in some cases there may not be capacity for a phone call everyday – if this is the case there will be extra teacher calls through the week for any families affected and/or families where there are siblings may receive a call from one member of the support staff who will speak to each child, rather than different calls for each. It's all dependent on staffing on any given day. Seesaw allows far easier and quicker communication between children/parents and teachers so if you do have a question and don't get a call – don't wait, send a message and the teacher will do their best to respond.

Wishing you our very best wishes,

Don McGibbon - Head Teacher