



Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School

An Exceptional School Without Exception

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Monday 1st February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share with you the current picture of teaching and learning at Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School. As a school we would much prefer to be open for all pupils, school is where pupils need to be so as to continue their education and development (not just academic, but social, mental and emotional development). However, schools are closed to the majority of pupils. This lockdown is important. It is in place to reduce the rate of transmission and infection rates locally and nationally. It is important that we abide by the lockdown and follow all of the guidance and laws that support this lockdown.

Current Lockdown Information – School’s Re-opening

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, last week advised that schools would remain closed until the 8th of March 2021, at the earliest. He explained his reasoning as follows. By the 15th of February, every person in the top four vaccination groups would have had access to a vaccine. The 8th of March is three weeks after this date, the date at which the vaccine will become most protective. It does look like they are on target to achieve this date and the quantity of vaccinations.

Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education), advised that schools would be given at least two weeks-notice as to when they would be expected to reopen. This means that all parents and schools will have been told whether the 8th of March is a positive for reopening by Monday the 22nd of February.

Staff COVID19 Testing – Lateral Flow Testing

Every member of staff has now been given their ‘lateral flow’ test kits which they are to complete twice weekly. This is to ensure that any staff member who may be asymptomatic, isolates and follows the NHS isolation guidance. Each test is completed at home and reports a result within 30 minutes. This is another small step that has been taken to ensure that our staff, pupils and our community remain as safe as possible.

Remote Teaching and Learning

Out of our school population of 125 children, depending upon the day, we currently have up to 46 children attending (critical worker or vulnerable).

- Our 8 Resourced Provision children (Tawny Owls) are attending school each day.
- 11 children are attending our Nursery setting across the week.
- We then have a further 27 children attending school, split into two bubbles dependent upon their school year group.

Apart from Mrs Burkey, all teachers are delivering remote teaching to their class. This has been a steep learning curve, one which all teachers have embraced and developed over the past four weeks. To support this we have added additional broadband bandwidth into school with the intention of ensuring our ‘live teaching sessions’ are as problem free as possible.



Each teacher delivers at least one 'live teaching session' each day via Zoom. These sessions are being used as a mechanism for sharing what the children have to complete each day, phonics lessons, maths lessons and story-time. Each Friday I deliver a virtual 15 minute Celebration Assembly to each class using Zoom.

I was very fortunate last Wednesday to visit each class 'Zoom', observing the way that these lessons are being used as a vehicle for engagement. Following these observations I have come up with a number of **'ideas to improve your child's Zoom lesson'**.

- Be ready to join the remote lesson at the scheduled time – this way you will not miss any of the learning and the teacher will not have to repeat the teaching
- Ask your children to keep their cameras on at all times – as in the classroom, teachers judge engagement by seeing the children
- Please eat before or after your remote lesson, not during – treat these Zoom lessons as you would a normal class lesson
- Where possible try to work at a desk or a table, placing your device on a stable surface – this will aid engagement and body posture for learning
- Have all your resources ready at hand – be ready for each lesson
- Only use the drawing / writing tool when requested to do so by the teacher
- If unable to join the Zoom, message the teacher via the VLE or over email – teachers use the Zoom lesson as an informal method for recording attendance

Our teachers use the school Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) www.weavervale.cheshire.sch.uk to place the work for your children to access each day. This is often as, links to learning, documents and supporting literature. Also placed on the VLE are the links for the Zoom sessions. We have also purchased a number of online resources to enrich each child's remote learning experience, including Times Tables Rockstars, IDL, MyMaths, First News, Spell Zone, Tapestry, See-Saw and others.

Parental Support at Home

I would like to personally thank you for all of the support that you are putting in at home, supporting your children. Without what you are doing, none of this would be half as effective. You are ensuring that your children are up and ready to learn at the start of the day, attending all of the Zoom sessions that have been scheduled by your child's class teacher and are helping them upload their completed work. Without complaining, you are technology specialists, Microsoft experts, Zoom gurus, Wi-Fi wizards, Michelin star chefs, fitness trainers, but above all, you are brilliant parents. Hopefully, when all of this is over, you will be able to look back at this challenging time and smile. A time that you wouldn't have necessarily been able to share with your children.

As I say to the children each week, this is a time that none of us have experienced before, a time that we do not know exactly what we should be doing for the best. Keep doing what you are doing. Your hard work is valued by all the staff at Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School.

If you have any problems or concerns surrounding your child's remote learning experience, I would urge you to email your child's class teacher using the email address provided. They will then get back to you with ideas and support.

Please stay safe.

Yours truly,

Mr Peter Van Geffen
Headteacher – Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School