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Headteacher: Mr. S. Rance*



11th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

The Government has asked that all schools have a plan for home learning in the event of pupils unable to attend school due to COVID-19.

Our response is set out on the sheet attached to the email accompanying this letter. Essentially, we have outlined 2 differing sets of actions, depending on whether it is an individual pupil or family who has to isolate, or whether it is a larger group, e.g. class, bubble (where not one class) or whole school.

If a large number of children are forced to remain at home, then the teachers will provide work and opportunities to be taught by them online each week.

If an individual child or family has to isolate, then we will provide work to complete at home, just like we would do if a child has a prolonged absence due to illness or injury. Of course, if they are very ill, we would not expect them to complete any work until they felt well enough to do so.

Unlike the previous lockdown, the Government expects the children to follow their regular curriculum as closely as possible, so this is why we will be telling all parents what activities their children should complete, rather than parents choosing activities they have found.

On our home learning strategy overview, it says that work will be submitted via email to the school and the teachers will respond via email. There will be 1 email address per class:

class1@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

class2@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

class3@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

These email addresses are only going to be used when home learning is necessary, so they will not be monitored whilst the children are attending school. Therefore, please do not send any messages for staff via these email addresses, only use the admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk address to contact the school.



I do sincerely hope that we are able to keep the children in school for the foreseeable future. However, I think it is important that parents are aware of what will happen if part or whole of the school is forced to close as a result of a positive COVID-19 test. As we do not know when this might be, there will be a few days between any closure starting and the first online work given/Zoom video lessons taking place, as staff will have to prepare resources that they wouldn't have used in a classroom.

Any decision to keep children at home will not be taken lightly and will be on the advice of Public Health England, as the Government expects any school to notify and consult with them prior to any form of closure due to COVID-19.

Please keep up the good work within your family of minimising contact with others, encouraging regular hand hygiene and following any other guidance set out by the Government. This will really help us minimise the risk of the virus spreading within our school community and keep the children in school. Please remember to keep your distance not only within the school grounds but on the surrounding area outside the school as best as possible.

Since returning last week we have already had some families take the COVID test under doctor's advice, as they were displaying possible symptoms. Thankfully, all of the tests have been negative - so far. The parents in these cases made the decision to keep their child at home until the result of the test was known. I think this is a really sensible approach and I would encourage all families to do err on the side of caution.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Rance
Headteacher