



ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Always a chance for everyone!”

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Dear Parents & Carers,

This has without doubt been quite a week already. Many apologies again for the bombardment of messages during the night – our App totally failed on us when we needed it the most and I’m sorry for the additional stress this caused. I know I always go on about communication being key – but that was ridiculous!

The new national lockdown has brought us all many challenges but the message from the Government could not be clearer - **if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. This is the safest place for them to be.** I would ask that if you are a critical worker but have a partner/family member at home that your child should stay at home wherever possible.

New Pick up and Drop Off Arrangements

Parents who have no other option and have prebooked via the app today can send their children to school tomorrow from 8.50am in school uniform. They should go onto their usual playground and will be organised into their new bubbles and their classroom. Please can we ask that only one parent comes onto the yard for each family group and all adults must wear a face covering. Children will be picked up from their usual playground at 3.15pm. Please no gatherings in groups on the playground when you are dropping off and picking up. For Nursery, the usual hours apply.

As the numbers are significantly higher than the lockdown last year, we might have to consider children in some mixed year group bubbles. They may not have their usual teacher and they will be completing the same work in school that is being set for remote learning for the children working at home.

Remote Learning at Home

Remote learning will be online from Wednesday 6th via SeeSaw for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and on our website class pages for Year 3-6 www.acklamwhin.co.uk/parents/year-group-pages/

We know this will be a very difficult time for our children and **we do not expect** them to be working through the activities like a normal school day. We hope the children continue to learn away from a screen too and continue to be active. We will ensure there will be enough materials to keep the children learning and engaged. If you have any problems with any logins or questions about the work set then you can contact the teachers directly, their email addresses are on their class pages. Also feel free to email your teachers any photographs of you doing activities to share with the rest of your class.

The government guidance suggested 2 or 3 hours a day of work would be good in these circumstances; even we think that would be ambitious at times. We are not setting any guidance to say how much work you should be doing at home – **please try and do what you can. You do NOT have to complete everything – what is most important is that you build a routine, use any of the materials we are sharing if you can and above all, enjoy this time with your children.** And do not forget, we are here for any support or advice. Either give us a call or email the teachers directly.

Like all schools nationally, we are now providing childcare and blended learning. At the moment the activities that teachers will share will be built around video/audio instructions and printable or interactive resources rather than ‘live lessons’. I really want to reassure parents, those children who are not able to attend school at the moment will not be disadvantaged to the children who are in school. Whether the children are working at home or school, they will be working the same materials. These can be supplemented with as much reading,

playing of board games, model making, baking, helping with household jobs, building with Lego, Duplo, Meccano, K-nex, drawing, painting, listening to music, watching TV (the BBC iPlayer have a great range of programmes), keeping a diary, keeping fit (Joe Wicks again?), colouring in, helping with meal prep, and keeping bedrooms tidy, to name but a few. The BBC have produced an excellent Parent's Toolkit with advice about working at home and supporting your child's wellbeing. It is part of their excellent Bitesize and Daily Lessons and is worth a read - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmlxyc>

We know that you will be concerned about where your child is at with their learning, we know you may be concerned about 'falling behind' again. Last term we worked very hard to get the children back on track and we will continue to do so as and when all children return to school.

Please remember this is a national issue, children all across the country are being asked to stay at home. When the time comes, when it is safe to do so, we will get back on track. We've done it before and we will do it again. We will support every one of our children to make sure that they have the knowledge, skills and understanding they need. Thank you for the time and effort you are putting into this.

A particular note for Year 6 pupils. Although it is highly unlikely that there will be SATs this year (I can't promise this) it is still crucial that you work through the learning activities shared by your teachers to help prepare you for the jump to secondary school in September – which will definitely still happen.

Just as important as all of the above is, our children also need time to chill, to play, to catch up with friends and family online or over the phone if at all possible and just be themselves.

We know learning from home is tough, but we know the only way to defeat this virus is to minimise contacts and minimise risks. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. This is the safest place for them to be.**

If you would like to contact us for any support or advice, please call 01642 813938, email awcontact@acklamwhin.co.uk or our emergency mobile 07835576070. We are still here for you and our families and if we can help get you through these difficult times, we will do our best.

Be safe, be strong and remember – we are right behind you. Apart again but not alone. Keep well and we wish you and your families all the very best. We will all keep going.

Mr Gamble and the whole Acklam Whin Family

