



## **NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD**

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we reach the end of one of the most difficult weeks that I've ever experienced in 23 years of school leadership. We are genuinely trying our very hardest for our families and hope that you will continue to support us as we continue to try to work a way forward. I do have a few thoughts that I'd like to share with you, so here goes!

We are able to accommodate the children of critical and key workers, as well as those who are classed as being vulnerable. However, in order to try to minimise the number of children on site, can I ask that you only access these places on the days when they are absolutely essential. I fully understand the frustrations of trying to work from home whilst supervising remote learning, but we also need to try to keep infection rates amongst our community as low as possible. The more children that we have in school, the greater the chance of a bubble having to be closed because of Covid-19.

I am fully aware of the desire of some parents for us to adopt a live teaching approach using Teams or Zoom. Whilst I understand that some schools are having success with this approach, I know of many cases where it has been less successful. We will not be taking this route. However, I acknowledge that it is extremely important for the children to interact with their teachers in a much more personal way than by email. We are currently exploring the possibility of hosting small group video conferencing opportunities which will enable the children to ask questions, discuss their learning and celebrate their successes with the teacher. I do not have any firm plans that I can share with you yet, but hope to be in a position to let you know what is happening shortly. During the spring lockdown, Mr Bradley and myself spent a great deal of time making telephone calls to our families in order to just check how people were doing. The current demands of keeping learning going in our school means that this job will be undertaken by the teaching assistant that works with your child's class. We hope that this will begin next week, but of course the call to your number will be from an anonymous one. Please resist the temptation to ignore the anonymous number as we would love to chat about how things are going. If you have any gripes about how we are doing, please do not take things out on the TA, but request that she gets the class teacher to contact you.

We're very conscious that many of the learning activities require things to be printed off. If this is becoming an issue for you, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We are happy to print things off and arrange for you to collect a pack from the school.

Finally, if your child is attending school and is in receipt of Universal Free School Meals -all children in Rec, Y1 and Y2- we will be providing grab bags from the school kitchen. If you wish your child to have one of these, please order it using the usual app. Of course if your child would rather have sandwiches from home, that is also fine. We regret that we will not be able to offer grab bags to KS2 pupils and they should continue to bring in a packed lunch from home.

These are very difficult times for all of us and I know how anxious many people are feeling. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you think that we can be of assistance in any way.

Thank you.

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## **PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

### **Deadline fast-approaching!!**

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 they will be due to start primary school in September 2021.

You **MUST** complete an application either online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions) or by completing an application form from your home local authority by **15 January 2021**.

The online system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1 October 2020 until the closing date for applications on **15 January 2021**.

Please note: Even if your child already attends a school nursery or has an older sibling at school please do not assume that your child will automatically gain a place at that school.

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## **DUDLEY PERFORMING ARTS**

Unfortunately due to the national lockdown we will not be having face to face tuition in school. DPA are still able to offer lessons online however and for more information, please follow the link below to their website page:-

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/dpa-direct/>

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