

**Foston CofE Primary School Admin <admin@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk>**

Mon 11/01/2021 17:07

Dear Parents,

Yet again we find ourselves in a situation where our schools have to close their doors to all but vulnerable and critical workers children. We have all been extremely saddened at the sudden announcement that has meant we cannot welcome all of our children back. The fact remains though that keeping our children, community and staff safe at this difficult time remains the most important thing. I thank you all for your support and patience during last week as we sorted out how we could deliver quality home learning to our children whilst juggling teaching to a much higher percentage of children who have taken up a school place. I remain immensely proud of our staff who worked tirelessly last week to put into practice what we hope will benefit all our children as we go through this difficult period. Most importantly the children of our 3 schools fill me with absolute pride. Their resilience and determination to make the best of this situation is second to none, both in school and out of school they continue to try their hardest supported by their dedicated families.

### **Technology Issues**

We love seeing the children in our daily teams sessions. We are aware, however, that internet speed during this period can be challenging. Please do not panic if you are unable to join a session. The home learning has been designed to be easily followed. If connectivity is an issue one day please just drop the class teacher a brief email explaining and then try again tomorrow. I am sure as time goes on schools themselves will also encounter issues as our rural connection is not great. Remember all we can do is our best in these challenging times. Teachers have been asked to contact families who have not attended the online sessions to offer their support.

### **Feedback**

As you can imagine delivering the home education to children in school whilst also catering for our home learners provides its challenges. In light of this, whilst we appreciate children's work being sent in weekly it is not possible to provide individual feedback. We will celebrate children's work in our daily teams session to motivate and inspire them. Teaching staff are working on a rota at present so it is possible that some weeks individual feedback will be sent but this will be dependent on self isolation, illness etc. Please bear with staff who are doing their very best with extremely challenging circumstances.

### **Reading**

From 18<sup>th</sup> January we will begin a rota of teams reading sessions for children. Further details will follow regarding these. Please take the opportunity to continue to read to and with your child throughout the lockdown.

### **Interventions**

For those children previously completing interventions or booster sessions in school, we aim to also set these up from 18<sup>th</sup> January. We will be contacting families this week to arrange these sessions with various familiar adults. We may also offer sessions to some children whom we feel may benefit from the sudden change of lockdown.

### **Online Platforms**

We will soon be sending out logins for online learning platforms, such as times tables rock stars. These will provide additional activities for your children to access whilst at home. Please take advantage of them.

### **Teams Meetings**

All children both in school and out of school will be involved in the online teams sessions so they can see and engage with their friends. If you have concerns about this for children in school please let us know and we will ensure children are removed from these sessions.

### **End Of School Day Reminder**

During this current period all school days will be finishing at 3.30pm in the afternoon.

### **Communication with school**

Please can we ask parents to communicate with their child's teacher in relation to any class work, online/home learning etc. For anything else please **only** use the office email addresses below, which will be forwarded to our senior leadership team if required.

[fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk)

[stillingtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:stillingtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk)

[terringtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:terringtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk)

To say we cannot wait to welcome children back is an understatement. We do recognise, however that it needs to be safe for our communities and families before we can do this. New Government guidance issued on Friday evening stated that where possible children should remain at home.

Kind Regards

Sarah Moore

Executive Headteacher - Foston & Terrington Federation with Stillington Primary School