



Together We Learn and Grow

Great Sankey Primary School

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Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope this letter finds you all well as we almost complete our fourth week of dual learning at home and school. We continue to be very proud of all the children in their responses to the work being provided to them, their enthusiasm, their smiles and adaptability.

Thank you for your responses to the survey sent out. This gave us an excellent capture of the current mood and I have shared the many, many positive comments with staff which helped to list their spirits also. The survey has now closed and we will share outcomes and any actions shortly via email and on the website.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

If the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15 February then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later, which is by 8 March. It is for this reason that it is hoped it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools from Monday 8 March.

We remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

Whilst I understand that some families are struggling with managing home schooling alongside their own work and home life, it is important that we try to maintain low numbers at school to help minimise the spread of the virus, protect our children, staff and their own families. Please support with this as we continue to get daily enquiries for children to attend school. This is a situation that none of us want to be in. Remember, however you are feeling is valid, we all deal with things differently. I also feel 'mum guilt' daily as I leave my children at home on a screen, it is so hard at the moment and I completely understand. We all have good days and bad days and that is ok.

Please also be aware that government guidance states that you can form both a childcare bubble (if you have children in the household under 14 and you need to attend your place of work) and a

support bubble for those families who have a child under the age of 1. These options may offer an alternative means of support for you and your family during these times and should be used in the first instance. The full guidance can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household#who-can-make-a-support-bubble>

Next week is children's mental health week and we will be incorporate this into some of our Google Classroom activities. The theme of this year is 'Express Yourself.'

We will also be using this to help launch our 'Well-being Wednesday.' From next Wednesday afternoon we are encouraging children at home and at school, parents and school staff to take a screen break and do something fun! We are introducing this for a number of reasons. In our analysis of engagement we notice a trend of a dip on a Wednesday, we also receive more calls and incidents mid-week and our parent survey responses also supported with the wish to have some screen free time. We will shortly share ideas and activities to participate (or not) in – the aim is to give yourself and your child a break and do something that makes you feel happy and relaxed. We hope this is another tool that may be used to support you all.

As always, we are still here to support you regardless if you are at home or in school. We are taking calls to many parents just to talk things through with them, reassure and offer guidance. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the team.

Thank you for your continued support,



V.J. Briggs
Executive Headteacher

