



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

Brantwood Rise
Banbury
OXON
OX16 9NH

Tel: 01295 251631

Email: office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you all managed to enjoy some fun in the snow on Sunday! Everywhere looked so pretty and wintery. I just wanted to take this opportunity to confirm our arrangements for when we close the school due to adverse weather conditions. We will always send a text to inform families if school is closed. If we don't send a text, we are open as usual. Therefore, it is really important that we always have your up-to-date phone numbers. Please notify the school office if yours has recently changed. During the lockdown, we would only text families that would be affected if the school was closed, i.e. Critical Workers and our vulnerable group.

I am sure you have all heard the Government announcement this week that schools are to remain closed until 8th March. We hope to hear more the week commencing 22nd February and will of course communicate any updates then. We are sad to not have the children back straight after February half term, but clearly the data speaks for itself and the risks remain too high.

Remote Learning:

We introduced whole class lessons this week across all year groups which have been wonderful. The children have really enjoyed seeing all of their class friends. The children continue to amaze us with their IT skills, using mute/unmute, pin screen etc. We hope you are all managing the new timetables and have adjusted your routines accordingly. I think the vast majority of children now understand the concept of taking part in a *school day*, but whilst staying at home.

We are required to produce information to parents informing you of our remote learning offer. So please find this document attached. None of this should come as a surprise as it is all information we have been communicating with you along the way.

Please remember to use the helpline if you are struggling with technology: Tel No 01993848291 or Email: support@123ICT.co.uk

Managing behaviour:

A few parents have contacted us this week explaining they are struggling with their child's behaviour. We would always recommend a very clear structure to your day as most children respond well to predictability, structure and routine. Make it clear what is happening each day, talk through the timetable, with warnings what is happening next. Ensure children move away from the screen and workstation when there are breaks. Get them physically moving. Think about appropriate rewards, decide together with your child.

Parents must also remember that no child at Queensway would have an adult working with them 1:1 the entire time. We would always be enabling every child to have some independence. The work which teachers are setting is differentiated to meet your child's needs, so please do not feel you have to sit with your child to complete the work. This wouldn't happen in school. They would be given the tools to do it themselves. The children might just need help submitting the work.

We won't offer places in school for poor behaviour and attitude at home. This isn't in keeping with the measures to stop the spread of the virus. Places in school are only for Critical Workers or families deemed as vulnerable.

February half term (Mon 15th-Fri 19th):

The Government have confirmed this week that schools will be closed for all children and staff at half term. We will not be setting any work during this week or delivering live lessons. School is closed.

Latest data from PHE:

Oxfordshire is starting to see a decrease in the number of positive cases but is still worryingly high and not down to the levels before Christmas. PHE is still urging families living in the Cherwell area to strictly follow the rules and stay at home. The Ruscote Ward (Bretch Hill), again whilst improving, is still **significantly** above the rest of the country at 840 per 100,000 of the population.



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Children's Mental Health week:

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year is 'express yourself.'

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

Each class will be talking about this and sharing resources to explore.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries. Keep safe,

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
Head Teacher