



Holland Haven Primary School

'Reach for the Stars'

Headteacher: Mrs S Bardetti B.Ed NPQH

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find attached a letter from Clare Kershaw, Director of Education in Essex. It has been a challenging week and we have had many hurdles to jump in order to follow government guidance for the third lockdown. Every lockdown brings new guidance, demands and expectations in educational settings.

We have, in a very short time, managed to organise classes for most of our key workers and vulnerable pupils and we have been able to produce a programme of daily work for those pupils who are at home, which reflects the work being done in school. We are adhering to the curriculum we planned for the spring term.

My staff, as always, have been amazing and so supportive. I am sure you will have heard that some unions have advised education staff not to attend school settings, as it is not safe to do so. All of my staff are attending work, but we have conditions, which will keep them as safe as possible, in this very difficult time. With this in mind, we have had to ensure that, in bubbles, children and staff are social distancing in line with guidance and so we are keeping numbers as low as possible. In this lockdown, because the government has added to the key worker and vulnerable list, we now have over 120 pupils in school. This is far from ideal and four times the amount of pupils we have had in previous lockdowns. As long as staff are able to attend work, we will do our best for these pupils. Unfortunately, we are not able to add to this number.

Our remote learning offer is an excellent offer. The government seems to think that teachers can teach and provide remote learning to pupils at the same time. This is absolutely not possible. Therefore, as you will have read in an earlier letter this week, I have organised for the phase leaders to provide remote learning to all pupils at home. This will be presented to pupils on a daily basis and will be at least 3 hours of learning per day. If you did not receive this letter please let me know. The home learning will reflect the learning taking place in the classroom.

I know you will have read that the government is providing laptops for some pupils in school. In the last lockdown, the laptops were only available to pupils who were extremely vulnerable with social care involvement. I will investigate this further over the next few days.

Unfortunately, we do have six pupils with positive COVID at the moment and some pupils waiting for test results. If the pupils, who have been attending school this week, receive positive results,

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some bubbles will need to self isolate, so please always have a plan in place for childcare in this instance. I will, of course be in touch if we do have a positive case in your child's bubble.

I will keep you updated as the weeks go on. In my 30 years of teaching, I have never experienced anything quite like this and it is a massive learning curve for all of us at school. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We do care passionately about all of our pupils and if we can help you in any way please get in touch.

Take care and keep safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S M Bardetti', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Bardetti
Headteacher