



The Laurels
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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CBU/mwa

27 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It's been another busy week for us all so I wanted to share some key updates with you.

Remote learning

I would like to thank you for your continued support with remote learning. We are delighted that feedback from our survey shows **98%** of parents are happy with live lessons. There is a lot more pressure and preparation for staff when delivering a live curriculum but seeing the children's faces and receiving your lovely comments lifts everyone and makes it worthwhile. Home learning, in its current format, is still relatively new to all children, parents and teachers and we will continue to develop our remote offer over time. I do understand that this is a really challenging time for us all, so everything that you have been doing to support and encourage your child has been greatly appreciated by the team.

If you are unable to attend a live lesson, the recordings will always be available for your child to watch at a later time and will enable them to submit the work at a time more convenient to you. As a mother of two young children learning at home, I appreciate there are many reasons why you may have to watch the recording; it may be your child needs to burn off some energy with a walk, you may be working from home or you may just need to play a game of your child's choice for a time. No one knows your child as well as you - trust your judgement about what will work best.

Wellbeing

Next week is Wellbeing Week and therefore all of our afternoon lessons will follow this theme. We will also be setting a challenge for each child to earn their first Laurels Resilience Badge! We have also been developing the [wellbeing page](#) on our website, and sharing resources for the children in our Wellbeing Google Classroom so do check for updates.

Routines and behaviour

Consistent routines can be a struggle at home with changes to our home working and learning. Routines can be helpful in supporting positive behaviour and general wellbeing. Also important, are periods of relaxation and exercise in between lessons. We have uploaded an example [timetable](#) to our remote learning webpage which may be useful in preparing your child for the day ahead. This [checklist](#) from the EEF may be useful for older children to help them devise their own routines.

Reading

Some parents have suggested it would be useful to have access to reading books. We have taken this feedback on board and purchased access for every child to an online library called MyON.

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MyON will enable the children to access reading books for their reading level at home and complete comprehension quizzes after. Your child will be able to access MyON at www.MyON.co.uk and passwords will be shared with you shortly. For your ease, a quick shortcut to access Accelerated Reader, MyON and Google Classroom has been added to the top right corner of our school website homepage as shown here:



Half Term and Inset Day on Monday 22 February

Schools will close as usual over the February half-term and will not be open to the vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. We will continue to have our staff training day on Monday 22 February and school will only be open for staff. There will not be online lessons on 22 February.

Safeguarding

As part of our safeguarding duty, if your child is not participating in the Google Classroom, we may contact you to check you are all safe and well. If we are unable to speak with you, or communicate via email after several tries, we may have to knock on your door to check you are safe and not poorly with Covid or otherwise. If you could send us a quick message to let us know you are well, that would be much appreciated.

Technology

If you have any issues with technology, please let us know and we will see if we can help. We have been working hard to get donations and may be able to help with devices or WiFi. Please contact the School Office and Mrs Collins will be happy to assist you.

Means-tests Free School Meals Scheme

At the moment, the Government are providing £15.00 per week to spend in the supermarket if the child is at home. Please do spend the vouchers as they become invalid after 1 month! Please check if you are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals by visiting [West Sussex County Council - Free School Meals eligibility](#)

There is Government wider support available through the COVID Winter Grant scheme to support with food and utility costs until the end of March 2021. Families in need of support can contact West Sussex Community Hub **0330 222 7980** (open 8.00am to 8.00pm, open 7 days a week).

Assemblies

We will start to reintroduce our Friday Celebration Assembly this week. Please look out for the link tomorrow. We will aim to recognise 10 learners in every class, each week. We are proud of all of our children and will try to recognise them all for their various skills and abilities over the next three weeks.

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone (01903) 830901 or office@laurelsprimary.co.uk

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'C Bull'.

Miss C Bull
Headteacher