

12th October, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. I just wanted to write to you to share information with you, some of which is new. I hope that by being all in one place, that it will be easy for you to refer to.

Parents' Evening

We know how much every parent values these opportunities to discuss their child's progress and time in school. This year, due to wanting to ensure that everything is Covid-secure, we are able to offer virtual consultations via Google Classroom Meet. These appointments are 10 minutes long and will be offered over a range of evenings next week (WB 19th October) as you will have seen when the booking system went live today at 11.30am.

For Years 1 to 6, once you have booked your appointment, a link to the meeting with your child's teacher will be posted in your child's Google Classroom and will require you to click and join at the allocated time. The link to the meeting will be sent to you by Friday this week. (16th October)

For children in Reception (Willows), Miss Lea in the office will send you a link for your confirmed appointment time. Again, this will be done by Friday this week.

Please ensure you are prompt to attend your meeting as the teacher will need to finish the call on time. If there are any problems, please contact the school office.

Remote Learning Plan and Home Learning

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote to you about what would happen to your child's learning in the event of a class or 'bubble' having to self-isolate, if there was a local lockdown or if an individual child has to self-isolate. In the event of this happening, we will be offering remote learning to all of our pupils in Years 1 to 6 via Google Classroom or in EYFS via Tapestry.

You will also have noticed that the children in Years 1 – 6 have been practising using different apps in the Google Classroom suite (both in school and as part of home learning) to ensure that they are familiar with using Google Classroom in the event that we are required to move to remote learning provision. I would like to offer a huge thank you and well done to children and families for adapting so well to our new way of providing home learning. We have been really impressed away with your support and encouragement as we have to adapt what we do.

As Google Classroom is now set up throughout the school, we are able to ensure that during these uncertain times, we can continue teaching, and allow all children access to the same curriculum regardless of whether they are learning at home or in school.

In the event of a lockdown or self-isolation of pupils, we have put together a remote learning package to avoid any disruption to your child's education. Should your child need to self-isolate, we will provide work from the second day onwards via Google Classroom. Please familiarise yourself with the document which is attached as it



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sets out teacher, pupil and parent responsibilities. If you have any further questions or concerns specific to your child and their learning, you can contact the class teacher using the class email.

Safety in Covid times

I would like to begin by thanking you all for supporting Ilsham C of E Academy as we navigate our way through this 'new normal' that we currently find ourselves in.

Just before the summer holiday, I shared our risk assessments with you (https://ilsham-lap.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ILSHAM-Parent-Risk-Assessment_July-2020_September-Opening-of-Schools.pdf) and we informed you that we would continue to review them. We are writing to you to let you know of some of the most recent changes to our procedures and to both ask and thank you for your continued support with this.

Schools are naturally a place where parents need to communicate with members of staff and doing this in a pandemic presents risks and challenges. We have seen an ever increasing number of adult face-to-face interactions for our staff as the term progresses, not just with colleagues in the classroom but with parents passing on messages at the start and end of the day.

Having reviewed our risk assessment, and in an effort to protect all adults in this changing climate, we have asked that, from Monday 12th October, parents or children over the age of 12 wear face coverings when they drop their child off at the gate/come on site through the school gates. We appreciate that some people are exempt from wearing face coverings and know it is important to make sure that members of our community are not judged in a negative way if they are unable to wear one.

You will also have noticed that from today, members of staff will also be wearing masks at the beginning and end of the day. These will be removed once children are inside the school building. Our administrators will also be wearing masks if you need to come into the school office.

Under normal circumstances, we welcome the informal conversations with parents as this helps us to have a better understanding of the children in our care as well as addressing any concerns as soon as they arise. However, in the current climate, please can we remind parents to try to contact school staff via the admin email and/or book telephone appointments, as necessary, for conversations. Where possible, this will enable teachers to be prepared with information and provide a proper confidential environment to discuss individual children as well as reducing the risk of transmission.

It is also worth reminding parents at this moment of the importance of social distancing and the rule of six measures which have been set out by the Government. It is so important that we are all doing everything that we can at this time to prevent any cases of COVID-19 within our school community.

Like you, we long for the day when school can go back to normal. However in this time of the pandemic we feel that it is right to take every precaution to protect the pupils, staff and community. This is why we thank you in advance for your support and partnership working.

Confirmation of a positive case

Thank you to parents who are constantly keeping us updated if their child is generally unwell or if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus. If your child is tested and the result comes back over the weekend, please could you message the school by replying to the email that this letter was sent on. A member of the leadership



team will be looking at emails twice a day at the weekend moving forward so that key actions can be started. Thank you for your support in doing this.

P.E Kits and Bags

Please continue to send your children into school in their P.E. kits on their P.E. days. They will need to have a white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and their school jumper.

In order to help keep our book stock in the best condition possible, please can all children bring in either a book bag or a plastic wallet to contain their books and home learning. Thank you for your support with this.

Harvest

We will be celebrating Harvest virtually, in school this year. Please look out for a flavour of our service in the end of half term HOA newsletter, which will be out towards the end of next week.

Children in Need

This year, we will be fundraising for Children in Need which will be on Friday 13th November. Children will be encouraged to wear something spotty for a donation that they can bring into school that day. More details will follow closer to the time.

A Fond Farewell to Mrs Clark

As many of you will know, Mrs Clark, our Family Support Worker, will be retiring at the end of this half term. She has worked in that capacity for many years at Ilsham and has been a valued member of the Warberry team for almost 20 years. During her time at Ilsham, she has supported many children and families and has been a familiar, smiley face in school. From all of the Ilsham family, we wish Mrs Clark well on her well-deserved retirement and will be sad to see her go.

Currently, we are in the process of recruiting a replacement family support worker.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or feedback to share. Take care of yourselves and your families.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Ryan".

Miss D Ryan (Head of Academy)