Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a big 'thank you' to you for all of your support during the first week of remote learning.

We knew that the first week of remote learning was going to be a challenge, regardless of how much planning and preparation we had put in over the few days after the announcement that schools would close. Well done to all the children and to you for engaging with the 2 daily meetings and for getting started with the new routines.

Some of our teachers and families had already had some experience of remote learning when their classes had to isolate last term, but this is new to the majority of our teaching staff. We have all had training and we continue to learn and improve every day, so please bear with us. We are ALL still learning and adjusting to what will be the norm for the next 6 weeks at least.

The teaching staff met on Friday to review the online learning experience so far, and to share what has worked well for some and what can be improved and refined. Many of you have added helpful comments to the Google Classroom stream. Thank you for this. We appreciated and welcome your feedback on what you think is working well and what we can improve. You can also contact us using the details at the end of this letter.

I am aware that there are many challenges -some families have multiple children at home all trying to learn online at the same time, some do not have adequate or appropriate devices to aid learning, some parents are physically going out to work, some parents are trying to work from home and home-school. This is not a situation that any of us want to be in; we all know that children should be in school learning face to face with their peers, but we are trying to do the best that we can to meet the needs of all of the children who are part of the Morningside community.

We have a number of staff who are unwell with Covid, who are shielding, self-isolating or who are awaiting Covid test results. I hope that you can appreciate that staffing is a daily juggling act. At present we have one teacher from each year group in school and the other leading remote learning from home. All children are doing the same lessons and the whole year group work together live at the two daily meetings.

During this week we will be posting links on the website to additional activities for remote learners. The link to this page can be found in your Google Classroom. This includes PE sessions, coding sessions, wellbeing activities, enrichment ideas and challenge activities for Maths and English. You already have links to log on to Bug Club, Numbots, Timetables Rockstars, Spelling Shed and Language Angels. If you need to request log-ins please use the form on the website. We are also encouraging your child to join Joe Wicks PE sessions, coding sessions, well-being sessions and other relevant activities via either the National Oak Academy or the new BBC learning sessions that started on Monday 11th January. A reading library has been set up in the training room in order that home reading books can be changed. Please call the school office if you wish to access this provision in order that social distancing can be maintained.

We have tried to reach a balance for parents between minimum and maximum engagement with remote learning, and completely understand if there are some sessions or some days that you or your child feel it would not be productive to join their classmates online. Please do not feel that you must be on every session -just try the best that you can depending on your circumstances. Our admin team will be sending out attendance guidance from the government later this week. If you are not able to log in for whatever reason, please let the office staff know in the usual way. Do not feel under any pressure. We are making daily calls to follow up on children who have not been online with their class to see if we can support you.

As ever we want to work in partnership with you. Please do continue to work with us and support your child as best as you can. Again, please let us know if we can help in any way. If you have any concerns and need support in any way -with free school meals provision, other resources, reading books or if you need support for emotional or mental health concerns please email admin@morningside.hackney.sch.uk or call 020 985 5382.

Please remember the lockdown restrictions in place -take care, keep well and stay safe.



Janet Taylor

Head Teacher