

East.Crompton St. George's C of E Primary School

George Street, Shaw, Oldham. OL2 8AX

Tel: 01706 847 502

Fax: 01706 841 516

E-mail: info@stgeorges.oldham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R Ross



12th February, 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support during these challenging times. I am aware that many of you are juggling online learning along with working and know that the challenges this brings are not easy. Like you, I do not have any further information from the Government yet regarding a return to school for all pupils. I am expecting that further information will be shared as we return after half term.

Miss Wedge:

Sadly, yesterday we said goodbye to Miss Wedge from the office. Miss Wedge travelled a great distance on public transport every day which has been even more challenging for her during the pandemic. She successfully secured a role working for the Department for Education. I am sure, like us, you would like to wish her well in her continued career. There will continue to be a familiar face in the office as Mrs Gledhill has increased her hours to full time.

Online learning:

It is extremely important that pupils accessing learning from home complete the work set. Teachers have carefully planned links to minimise impact on pupil progress. Learning is delivered through the Government approved Oak Academy, with follow up tasks linked on Purple Mash. Units are specifically selected by class teachers to cover key learning elements within English and maths. This means that teachers are able to mark work and assess progress pupils are making. As learning time was lost last year as well, this means if pupils do not complete units of learning they may have missed two years of a specific element eg 'shape' in maths. There will not be time to recap all of this learning once pupils are back in school. We understand that it is challenging and want to support as much as we can through the weekly phone calls.

In School Places:

Numbers of pupils accessing the school site are continuing to rise. We are trying our best to accommodate where there is a need but would like to stress the Government guidance regarding places in school. Pupils can access school if a parent is a 'Critical Worker' – this is not the same as during the previous lockdown when the term 'Key Worker' was used. The Critical Worker list can be found on the Government website. Whilst the Government have stated that only one parent needs to be a Critical Worker, they also strongly state that if your child can be cared for at home, they should be to minimise numbers in schools and decrease the risk of the virus spreading. In addition to increasing numbers of

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pupils requiring access to school through a Critical Worker place, we also have increasing numbers of pupils requiring places for a variety of reasons which the Government consider as 'vulnerable'.

The challenges we have faced over the last few weeks around snow and ice have meant we have had to decrease numbers on specific days to maintain safety and we would like to thank you for your patience and understanding on these days. We know that it will have added stress and uncertainty for you and your children.

Managing Numbers:

We are now reaching the point where we have to look carefully at how we can continue to ensure the safety of pupils and staff accessing site by ensuring numbers are manageable. Numbers of pupils accessing the site by far surpass the average across England at around double. Therefore, over half term we will be considering a variety of options to enable us to ensure manageable numbers moving forward. Having said this, provision will continue for those currently accessing on site provision, following half term.

Our hope is that lockdown will end sooner rather than later, and all pupils can swiftly return to school!

Support Bubbles:

We are seeing an increasing number of pupils collected from school by several different people/other parents. Whilst it is understandable that a support network may be required eg for single parents, following Government guidelines this should be limited to one other person outside of your household. We would ask that you adhere to these guidelines to ensure the risk for everyone in school is kept to a minimum. We will be asking for clarification, where needed of who the additional person is to complete your support bubble and pupils will only be released to a member of your household or this named person.

Please remember we break up on Friday 12th February. This means there will be no onsite provision for pupils and no home learning next week. Pupils accessing in school provision and online learning will commence on Monday 22nd February.

In appreciation of your continued support.

Kind regards,



Mrs R Ross

Head Teacher