



Le Cateau

Community Primary School

7th January 2021

RE: Thank you and well done!

Dear Parents / Carers,

I just wanted to take a moment to write to you to say '**thank you**' and to share a massive '**well done**'. It has been a rollercoaster of a week and the way you have all pulled together to support has been incredible. With kitchen tables turned back into 'classroom desks', TV screens turned into teaching devices and visual timetables back on the fridge, the way you have adapted yet again to another lockdown has been amazing.

I am sure that the announcement of the lockdown on Monday evening caused a number of worries for many people, yet, people have risen to the task and, although there have been some minor hiccups, the vast majority of people are set up and accessing what is being provided.

Avoid overload...

With that in mind, I do want to reiterate the same message I shared back in April. Every family is in a unique and changeable situation. Although we have developed a clear policy for remote learning in line with what the Government's expectations are, we understand that for some, they simply won't be able to complete every task presented for a number of reasons. We are realistic about what children will be able to do during this period, and we want you to be too. Simply providing them with some structure at home will help and managing the learning that fits your family and your home-life is what needs to happen. Yes, we do require pupils to be undertaking learning and will be getting in touch if we notice there is no or very little engagement, however, the juggling act that many of you are going through is very much in our minds and we recognise that some items may simply slip through the net.

Yet again, it is a strange and challenging time and your child will probably feel wobbly and worried once again. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your with their child learning or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting your child's teacher/staff members or by emailing covid@le-cateau.n-yorks.sch.uk.

In essence, our role is to support and encourage every child to achieve what they can, keep their learning minds active and safeguard their health and wellbeing. It is **not an expectation** that everything will be completed and individual staff members will reiterate this message although, doing nothing is not going to help the pupils moving forward!

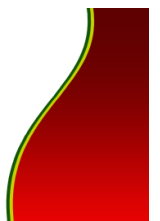
Government Message

As we are all readjusting and getting our heads around the new position we are in, it was **very disheartening** that we heard yesterday from Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) suggesting that if parents aren't happy with the remote learning being provided then they should report this to Ofsted. This is really not helpful and something that education settings up and down the country are very upset by! The vast majority of messages I have received have praised the school and staff members for what they have done, for the way we have worked and what we have provided. Maybe these are the messages that could be shared with Ofsted instead?

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If you are not happy with what are providing then my preference would be to contact me first so that I can attempt to address any concerns. My staff would prefer this too! They have worked incredibly hard not just today but over the past 9 months trying to prepare for the eventuality of another lockdown. Personally, I think they have done and are doing a fantastic job ... but I'm obviously biased!

They have developed online learning, trained children, created new teaching plans and new communication systems **AND** all in such a short space of time. If you feel that it is not good enough then I would like to hear it first so I can resolve any problems. We won't get it right all of the time for every single child but we will always try our absolute best to serve our children and community. That is the reason we are all here and previous feedback supports this fact.

Reflecting on this, schools were safe on Sunday, open on Monday, closed on Tuesday and it is now Thursday. As you all understand, it does actually take some time to set up remote learning for children learning from home. My personal view is that a little patience is required in times like this and, whilst our school has turned things around in rapid time, we are very fortunate with our resources and systems that worked well before the summer and these have continued with some further improvements.

Finally, stay positive and continue to do the amazing job that you are doing. If you do need our help and support then please do get in touch. We have implemented a 'cut off' time for Seesaw meaning staff are **not expected to be responding** to communications after 4:30pm (many of them are having to manage their own family and children as well) but, myself and Mrs Warriner oversee the covid@le-cateau.n-yorks.sch.uk email address on an evening and will aim to support if we see anything that is urgent.

Please stay safe!



Mr Ian Mottram
Headteacher