

Headteacher's Message

I want to start by thanking you for your patience and your kind words over the past week. There's been lots of positive emails into school, expressing thanks, care and understanding of the mammoth task last week of setting up remote learning overnight and the one ahead of us of maintaining a high standard of education in school and for those at home too.

As you know schools were plunged into offering a remote learning offer overnight and we had to work extremely hard to get things in place very very quickly. I'm sure you're aware that this hasn't been without it's teething problems which we are working through as quick as we can to ensure our remote learning offer is effective as it can be for the children.

Tapestry has been struggling with the amount of traffic it's site and their server capacity. I know they are working through this. In the meantime whilst Tapestry is making the necessary upgrades it needs to, please keep checking ParentMail, email and Facebook for updates. We will ParentMail you the links to the staffs' recorded video clips and zoom links so that nothing is missed. Please also check your junk as messages from school may have ended up in these folders too. You should have already received the timetable for the week so you know what's coming up. Hopefully, these bumps in our remote learning offer road will become smooth as time progresses. I would politely ask that you please bear with us as we are doing our absolute best and all we want is for the children to have a fantastic learning experience even when they're not in the school building.

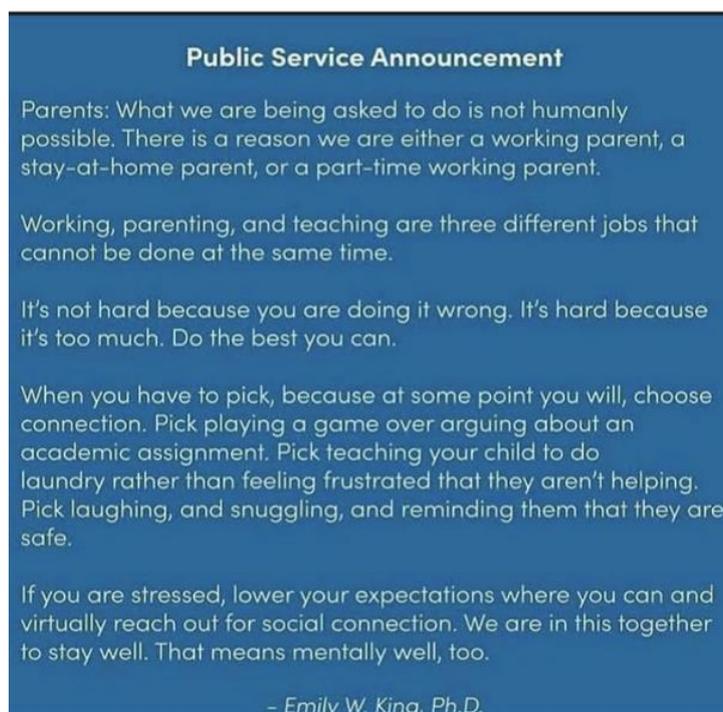
With the regard to the learning activities we're setting we are working hard to make it as engaging for the children as possible by recording video clips, hosting zoom meetings, assemblies and also trying to give the children activities which encourage them to be away from a screen. As a school we are asked to check who hasn't engaged with learning who hasn't been in contact with us so please don't think we're judging you if we're checking in, we will always be there to offer support help and offer guidance.

Whilst the government has definitely increased the expectations regarding remote learning since the last lockdown, I still recognise that your family's health and wellbeing is the absolute priority. Please remember, you can't be all things to all people all of the time and mething may have to give to get through this, there has to be flexibility in approach and you have to do what works for your family.

This image shows a home where everyone has access to a device, there's no problems with bandwidth, there's access to outside space and everyone is getting along harmoniously but we all know is that quite often that this isn't the reality in most homes. Quite often devices are shared, bandwidth isn't good enough for us all to be streaming or working online at the same time, there often isn't a quiet space for us to concentrate or escape to, there can be tensions and stress as we're trying to juggle our paid work and our children's learning. Please be kind to yourselves!



One of my friends posted on social media this image to the left and I thought it was a good reminder to us all and may help to keep us sane in these challenging times.



Today we have begun to hand out Chromebooks to families who have requested that they need a device we still have a few devices remaining and if you'd like to request one because you are struggling at home with access please email mchapman@stoughton.surrey.sch.uk



On a similar note you may have seen via our Facebook page or your own social media that you are able to apply for extra or unlimited data on your mobile phones accounts and this would be free of charge.

We know from the press that this new strain of virus is extremely transmissible and the government are asking us to refrain from mixing with any other households at all. Of course when children come to school they are mixing with numerous households everyday. We try hard to mitigate and reduce the risk as best we can by getting the children to wash and sanitize their hands regularly, to space them out in the classrooms, adults wearing face coverings to fix the bubbles whilst inside the school building and to not swap adults in between the bubbles wherever possible.

This lockdown our numbers have increased almost 10 fold. In the first lockdown, the highest number of children we had on any day was 15 and the average was 8. This time, we are having over 100 children on site every day. This is a dramatic increase.

The guidance for schools is changing regularly quite often in the evening and at the weekend and this is out of our control, we don't get any advanced warning of the changes that the government are making for us. On Friday evening

the government tweaked the critical worker guidance changing it to state that ***“parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.”***

Chris Whitty has said today that, “The public should not wait for any government ‘tinkering’ with the rules and should ‘double down’ now on avoiding any unnecessary contacts.” And “we should be doing our level best to minimise the amount of unnecessary contact with people not in our household. I can emphasise that enough.”

So, I politely ask those families sending their children into school - If there is anyway you keep your child at home or even reduce their attendance in school slightly, please do so and don’t just take up the school place because you can. This potentially could help reduce the transmission of the virus and help to save lives.

Finally, one of our parents is a Registered Applied Psychologist and she is very kindly offered to share some hints and tips for surviving lockdown. I’ll be sharing these in my newsletters with you. Her first two tips are below:

To kick things off, I really like this brief article from the BBC- 5 tips for surviving lockdown.

1. I particularly like tip number 5- do things badly! The idea that we just have a go and do what we can rather than putting things off until the "right" time. With all the demands on our time at the moment it is so important to cut ourselves a little slack and do what we can.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55264224?fbclid=IwAR3Ghz2ZtAOXvqnkGWtXGV7NSfVgVEbrnLZdy8MeQ6a4BU44e3yq1GrzhE0>

2. Tip: Be kind to yourself

Easier said than done I know, but this really is important, especially at the moment with so many additional demands placed upon us. More information about self compassion in this article:

https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/jan/06/silence-your-inner-critic-a-guide-to-self-compassion-in-the-toughest-times?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR0auPEIjB3H0cPrn0hC0chjpBaumI3mvGRP5Z4HPCVgKRUsWNb2djF7ZQc

Please stay well and stay safe,

Best Wishes,

Sarah Carrington

Date	Event
Monday 4 th January	Start of spring term
Monday 15 th February	Half Term
Monday 22 nd February	Term starts
Thursday 1 st April	End of spring term – staggered finish times
Monday 19 th April	Start of summer term
Thursday 6 th May	Closed for Polling
Friday 28 th May	Break up for May half term
Monday 7 th June	Start of term
Friday 16 th July	Last day for children
19 th , 20 th , 21 st July	INSET days – closed to children
1 st , 2 nd September	INSET days
3 rd September	Autumn Term starts

All dates can be viewed from the school diary which can be found on our school [website](#)

ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)