

8th January 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

We are now, finally, at the end of what has been an extremely busy week that has brought about huge change for us all. I would like to thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience whilst we have closed the full school, opened Frontline School and made the switch to online learning. I know there have been a few, initial technical hitches over the last couple of days, but as the days go by, and we all get used to the new routines and ways of working, I am sure things will go more smoothly.

I would also like to thank the staff in school who have been amazing in reacting so quickly and positively to an announcement that was made so late in the evening on Monday. There has been a huge amount of work undertaken, some of it starting on Monday evening, to ensure we had an initial Frontline School ready to open on Tuesday and throughout Tuesday to ensure that we had online learning and the wider opening of Frontline School ready for Wednesday morning. All areas of the school have been affected by change - the Wrap Around Care Team, the Catering and Dinner Teams, the Teaching and Learning Teams and the Administration Team. All have worked superbly in adapting to the rapid changes imposed on us this week.

Attached to this letter is a letter from Mrs Brown, our Trust CEO, outlining the expectations around the engagement with online learning whilst the children are at home. For KS2 parents, you will also have received a letter from Mr Hind outlining the timetable of learning and response times.

As Mrs Brown states in her letter, in October 2020, it became law for schools to deliver a high standard of remote learning if children were not able to physically be in school. The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, also announced this week that schools would be monitored on the quality of their online learning offer. As you can appreciate, the expectations around the continuation of our children's education are very high.

We, at Osbalwick Primary Academy, are very mindful that our children have already lost the best part of their last year's education due to the first lockdown and we now find ourselves in another similar situation. We do not want our children to miss any more learning opportunities.

I very much appreciate that some of you will be juggling your own working from home, maybe even travelling to and from work, caring for younger children or older family members. I would, however, strongly recommend that you, as parents and carers, support your child(ren) as much as you possibly can during this time. Work is being set on a daily basis and it is expected that all children will respond. The older children are being set work that they are able to undertake with a high degree of independence and the younger children are being set tasks that require a mix of independence and adult



support. There will also be a mixture of new learning and tasks that revise and consolidate learning that the children have already completed.

Please be assured of the support of the classroom teams as we move forward with our online learning journey - please do get in touch with them if your child(ren) are in need of extra support. We are here to support the children academically. In terms of their well being our WEB (Well Being) Team will be available to support children both in school and online and there will be a weekly, online, check in each Monday morning.

A reminder, too, that bookings for Frontline School are now closed via the Google Form. If you find that your work circumstances change and your child could be eligible for a place, please contact us at the address below and we will consider your request. If you are able to have your child at home I would urge you to do so. This maintains a low number of children within school and therefore lowers the risk of infection within school, therefore protecting our school community and, ultimately, the NHS.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch via admin.osb@ebor.academy.

I wish you all a safe and happy weekend.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Mould'.

Mrs Mould
Acting Headteacher