



### **Well done Everyone!**

Thank you all for your fantastic efforts in transitioning to online home learning last week. We were as surprised as you with the lockdown announcement but the brilliant Burbage spirit really kicked in with a largely smooth transition to online learning.

We know this is not a situation any of us would ever want to happen, we have been so cheered by the positive messages and comments we have received. We understand that every family has a unique set of circumstances and we know it is a challenging time, we are here to support you as best as we can. The engagement levels have been really excellent across the school - we are so impressed with the children and you the parents for juggling everything in order to adhere to the government guidelines whilst keeping your children learning.

### **School Arrangements:**

We have some childcare children in school but are fortunate that our numbers are low with around 20% in school. This is much lower than some schools, we are grateful for you following the 'Stay at Home' message in order to keep safe. Our brilliant TAs have been caring for the children in school and supporting them with their home learning whilst our talented teachers are back to teaching from their living rooms!



### **Teams Passwords:**

Please please please can you make sure your passwords are written down somewhere safe. We have had a lot of calls to the school office, some multiple times! We are here to help but it is time consuming for Mrs Lockwood and our IT technician.

### **'Live' sessions:**

Those of you who were in school last year when we had the first lockdown will remember that all our lessons were pre-recorded with some 'live' sessions happening for class meetings. We are building on the success of these this time around with some live teaching happening in the upper KS2 classes and live class chats happening across the school. We know from our IT survey that many families are having to share devices so we have made efforts to ensure these sessions do not clash with others in the school. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging with each other and their teachers.

### **Safeguarding / emergency phone number:**

Our admin email is monitored constantly. However, should you have an emergency and need to be in



touch outside of school hours, a senior member of staff can be contacted on 07824 614228.

**Use of Staff emails:**

This is a polite request that you **do not use staff emails to contact teachers or other staff members**. These are not usually given out but can be found on Teams. The staff are very busy; all correspondence should be through the school office. This is part of our commitment to staff wellbeing and our school policy.

**Music Success:**

Well done Josh who achieved his Grade 2 piano last term.

**Laptops:**

As part of our contingency planning over recent months, we have successfully procured additional laptops to support home learning. Following the survey we sent out at the beginning of the week, we have issued laptops to those most in need. There will be a second wave distributed shortly. We are committed to ensure that the children are not working from phones wherever possible (although this works well for our Reception class children on Seesaw) and have reviewed the number of family members having to share devices putting the need into priority order.

**Exercise Books:**

If you are in need of a new book for your child to do their school work in, these can be collected from the school entrance lobby. Please do not enter the site if you see others nearby.

**Reading Books:**

Children who are on reading scheme books and are learning from home will be able to access reading books on Teams (Seesaw for Reception) that match the phonics stage they are working on. We feel this

is the safest way to keep our early readers reading and learning at this difficult time.

**Keep Smiling and Keep in Touch:**

Mrs Garbutt and Mrs Lockwood are in school every day. We can't promise to be able to fix all problems but will always do our best to help, please don't struggle alone.