



HOWLETCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! It has been an unexpected start to the new year with an unwelcome lockdown and snow! The children attending school are doing well and settling in to the new routines for 2021. We have been very happy to welcome our new Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Beattie who joined Howletch this week.

CRITICAL/VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

We have approximately 90 key worker and vulnerable children in school at present. We must follow the new government guidelines which came out this week which means that, unfortunately, we cannot accept any further requests for school places. We are keeping a waiting list, however as family circumstances and guidelines change regularly and we may be able to offer some more children places in the future.

ONLINE LEARNING

We hope you are managing to assist your children with their online learning on the Purple Mash platform. We are constantly looking at ways to improve and we will be sending you details in the next few days about the email facility which you can access from the home page through the Computing icon. This is called 2email and it will enable you to communicate directly with the class teacher without having to ring school to request a call back. We hope that you will find this useful as we realise how difficult it must be for some of you who are working from home whilst trying to support your children with their learning.

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

Teachers will be producing an overview which they will post on a Monday so that you can see the work being set for the week. We hope that this will help you to organise your children's work for that week.

BUG CLUB READING LOGINS

Next week you will receive an email or text giving you the login for the Bug Club book club. This will enable your child to access reading books online and to do activities related to their reading.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

We have requested Google Classroom for use as a tool where teachers can set up online meetings for their class. This will enable the teachers to schedule a meeting where all children can see each other, chat together and talk about the week's online work. We hope to have this up and running in the next week or two.

LAPTOP HIRE

If your child does not have a laptop or tablet, we have a limited number of available laptops. Please contact school to request a device.

FSM VOUCHERS

We are awaiting further information from the government but we hope to be sending out vouchers to all families entitled to free school meals who are not currently attending school.

CHANGE TO ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS FOR MISS STOREY'S CLASS

From Monday, please can Miss Storey's children enter the school grounds from the Sainsbury's car park entry point instead of at the side gate next to the bungalows. Other class entry and exit points are unchanged.

Thank you for your support and cooperation at such a difficult time. We are missing the children who are working at home but the top priority for us all must be to keep everyone as safe as possible.

If you are struggling and need support, please email o.howletch200@durhamlearning.net and request a call back from a member of staff.

I hope you keep safe and well.

Mrs Adair