

## MEREVALLEY FEDERATION

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*Executive Headteacher: Mrs Soheila Mathison*  
*Chair of Governing Board: Mr Nick Sharp*

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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you have had a relaxing Christmas Break.

During the holidays, you have received communications from Mrs White and Mr Mortimer following the central government's announcement on 30<sup>th</sup> December, however last night the Prime Minister made a more assertive and relatively long term announcement and that is, at least until half term break, 12<sup>th</sup> February, schools will be open to the children of the Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children only. The rest of the children can access remote learning, we use, Google classroom, TT Rockstar, SATs Companion, BBC Bitesize and Purple Mash.

I ask you please to encourage your child to read daily. It is crucial that reading skills are not compromised during the period that children are not at school and have to engage with online learning. Please keep in mind that due to the Phonics teaching in the early years most children are fluent decoders, however a good reader will display expression, intonation, pace, tone, pitch, timing and phrasing. Through our Accelerated Reading program, we have dedicated a lot of time in improving reading at school, please support us in ensuring that we keep up with our progress and do not regress.

On a totally different note, in order to ensure the safety of our children and the staff, please read the following paragraph carefully and adhere to it.

### **Places in school for vulnerable and critical worker children**

We now have smaller year group bubbles across the school which we will now staff up until the half term break on 12<sup>th</sup> February. If you need your child to attend school at any point for the rest of this half term, and your child does not already have a place, please can you phone in to the school office. As each group of children is capped at 15, we need to have advance notice of your child needing to attend. Therefore, we are asking parents to phone to ask for a place in school by midday on a Thursday in order that the child can come in to school from the following Monday. We will not accept children mid-week, however if you work shifts and know which days you need your child to attend school, please give us the dates in advance.

### **Communication**

Our Learning Mentors will be taking a lead on welfare calls to families. We have a lot of families to get through, so, although these will begin this week, you may not receive one straight away. We only have 2 phone lines at school, so please bear with us whilst we get around to everybody. In the meantime, if you would like to speak to a member of our pastoral team to support you or your family with your child's wellbeing or behaviour, please email in to [learningmentors@emersonvalley.org.uk](mailto:learningmentors@emersonvalley.org.uk).

Please note that this is a new email address that has been set up. If you have any queries about online learning, need support with google classroom or need to request a paper work pack for your child, then please email in to [IT@emersonvalley.org.uk](mailto:IT@emersonvalley.org.uk)

A separate communicate will be sent to the families who are entitled to Free School Meals, Shortly.

I thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Mathison

