



Shortlanesend School

Newsletter



22nd January 2021

Spring Term

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that you and your families are all safe and well.

Thank You

As we complete the third week of term, engagement levels with remote learning are very impressive. Education works best when there is a strong partnership between the child, the parents or carers and the teachers; this is obviously even more important under the current circumstances. **Thank you** all for your amazing efforts to organise your days to support your child's education whilst balancing your own jobs and lives.

Please remember that remote education doesn't mean exclusively online education. Please pace yourselves, insert breaks into the day and if possible find time to get outside for some fresh air and exercise.

Also remember, that we are here and available should you need any help or advice, or just to chat. We fully understand the anxieties that people are feeling currently – these are a natural reaction to the increased pressure many of us are experiencing. It is important that you remember to look after yourself well, to be better placed to look after your children. Think about the safety drill in aeroplanes – Adults are instructed to put on their oxygen mask before they help their child on with theirs.

Below is the link to our home learning page which contains links to videos which aim to troubleshoot logging on and accessing the online learning platforms. There are also recorded stories from staff and other usual links.

[Welcome to Shortlanesend School \(eschools.co.uk\)](https://eschools.co.uk)

Thank you also to the parent who kindly donated milk for the school this week. Acts of kindness are so important, especially during these challenging times, and this gesture was very much appreciated. This along with the continued positive feedback we are receiving, and a full understanding of the situation means a great deal to all the staff.

Lateral Flow Testing

From next week staff who are supporting the in-school provision will be testing themselves on a Monday and Thursday morning, following the government's strategy. There is a separate letter from Aspire CEO, Vanessa Bragg which provides more detail. The important information for parents is:

The children **are not** being tested

If staff report a positive result. **Bubbles may have to close with very little notice.** In short, if you are using the in-school provision or when we hopefully have a return of more/all children, you may receive a communication from the school on a Monday or Thursday morning informing you that your child's bubble is temporarily closed from that day.

In-school provision

The school remains open to key workers and vulnerable children. We remain at full capacity for this provision, and continue to echo the strong government and local authority message **that this service is only to be used by parents when there is no other alternative for your child to be home.**

If you are working from home, the safest place for your child is there, with you.

Thank you to those parents who continue to negotiate changes to their work pattern with their employer and promptly inform the school they no longer needed a booked place. This is greatly appreciated.

New Development

It is good to look to future and this week the parental consultation regarding our exciting proposed new development for our school went live. Below is a link to the area on our school website. Please take the time to have a look at the information and plans. The consultation will last for six weeks.

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Please, have a restful weekend and stay safe and well.