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Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I really hope you are all well. This was not the welcome back letter we had planned. However, by working together and looking out for one another, we can get through this. Hopefully, there are already rays of light at the end of this tunnel.

I just wanted to let you know what school looks like at the moment, and what you can expect from Shamblehurst Primary up until February half term.

Following The Prime Ministers announcement at 8pm last Monday, the school had to use one of our INSET days to ensure we could open and meet the needs of the critical key workers in our community, as well as supporting our most vulnerable children and families. Therefore, there will no longer be an INSET day on 19th April 2021.

Government advice, published last Friday states 'that children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'

We are proud to be supporting our critical key workers and currently have 145 children in school. This has meant we have 14 classes. In some year groups where numbers are high, this means that teachers are teaching in school all day, therefore if you see a slight delay in feedback online, this is why. All our learning support assistants are supporting in providing feedback as well.

You can expect at least a weekly call from a member of staff if your child is at home. Please do not wait for this call if you have any problems, we are here to help and support you. Teachers can give children a call to unpick learning, Mrs Curry is in school if you have any family related issues, and we can support if your technology is causing concern – please do ask – these are stressful times and if we can help, we will.

Those children who are in receipt of free school meals will receive their vouchers on Tuesday 12th January. This voucher covers the next 5 weeks. These vouchers are not for infant children who receive universal free school meals. Food packs were made available for those requesting them today.

You will be aware that school did have a positive case last week. Please be assured we work closely with the Department for Education, and follow their guidance in these matters.

We will keep in regular contact and truly hope things start to improve, not only for our community, but nationally as well.

We are thinking of you all.

Anna Jones
Headteacher

