

Yox Valley Partnership



Primary School



Academy Head - Gail Jerman

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Website: www.yoxvalleypartnership.org

8th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

Happy New Year

It seems a bit strange wishing you a Happy New Year when this one has started with such a whirlwind of events, but I do hope that you were able to have some quality time over the Christmas break,

I realise that you have been inundated with emails and messages from school this week, and so I want to thank you all for your patience as we have made plans, changed plans, scrapped plans and made new ones. Hopefully things will now settle into a routine and we will all know where we are! I just want to go through a few things to provide further clarification and give any more updated information - everything has been so rushed that I am sure your heads are spinning (I know mine is!)

Places for Children of Key Workers: Thank you to everyone who completed the Google Form on Tuesday. I know that some parents have requested a place for some of the time. I think the expectation is that if you have requested a place, then your child/ren should be in school full time. However, we know this then also goes against the Government advice of 'If you can stay at home, then you should'. If you only want your child in on certain days it would be help to know in advance and they should then engage with the remote learning from home.

If your circumstances change and you find yourself in need of Key Worker spaces then just let us know and we can accommodate that.

Nursery Places: Please remember that we are also open to all nursery pupils, so if you want them to attend just let us know. I know we have been in touch with each of you, but if you change your mind then that place is still available.

Google Classroom: There have been a few technical hitches as we get everything up and going with the live teaching but I think these have now been sorted. Hopefully everyone is able to access the platform and has been in contact with their teacher and with their peers. If there are any problems getting into a live session, please call the school office who can then get a message to the teacher and we will sort it as quickly as we can. I have asked teaching staff to put a timetable up on their Class pages so you know what will be happening for the week ahead. This has been a whole new way of teaching for our staff, but they have risen to the challenge very quickly. I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who has sent in such lovely positive feedback about the provision we are offering – we have really appreciated that.

If you have any photographs of your children working at home, then please post them on Google Classroom – we love to see what they are doing.



Technology support – We know that access to laptops can be challenging when there are several children all wanting the screen, and perhaps you have children in secondary school as well trying to get onto their live lessons. I have been working with a few local charities and with the Parish Councils to purchase some tablets, which we can loan out to families who are struggling with this during this period of remote learning. Once they arrive and are set up by our IT team we will get these out to families that need them.

Well-being: The well-being of your child is really important to us all and so your class teacher will be making contact on a regular basis. It may be through Google Classroom or through some Class Google meets, and for those who are not engaging in the online learning we will be making call to see how you all are and see if there is anything we can do to help you. If you feel that you would like any additional support from us, or from our Inclusion team then please do not hesitate to ask – we are here to help you all and if we don't have the answer we can try and signpost you in the right direction. This support may be around financial support, advice about food banks, or just someone to talk to, then please just make contact.

Reception Application for 2021: Just a reminder that if your child is due to start Reception in September 2021 then the closing date for applying is 15th January 2021. The website is www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions If you need any help, please contact the school office and they would be happy to assist in any way that they can.

Finally, I just want to reiterate my thanks to you all – we really are fortunate to have such a supportive group of parents and carers across our schools.

Have a relaxing weekend and keep safe.

Gail Jerman
Academy Headteacher

Never giving less than our best

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