

Week ending 22nd January 2021

It's 'Lockdown news' part two this week. Another exhausting week for everyone I think. There has been much in the news about the expected returns to school and to be honest we have had no notice yet so will just keep working as we are until we are told to stop.

Remote Learning

This week we have once again seen fantastic engagement in the home learning. Following some comments made to staff, I feel it really important to stress that this is a whole new world to us too, our University training did not prepare us for teaching digitally during a pandemic. Right now we are all reinventing ourselves into roles that we would not necessarily be accustomed to or with any option choose to do! Lessons in school are normally very interactive with resources, experiments, other children and adults to talk to and with a plethora of equipment for children to use, to utilise their own talents. We are trying to deliver a curriculum through an IT medium and are very aware that household don't have the same resources we have in school. We are doing the best we can within a statutory framework; we have to teach the full curriculum, with new learning, for at least a specific number of hours. Engagement is not optional and just because a child doesn't like English they can't then just choose not to attend this session. It is also not a meeting place to hang out with the friends you miss and have a chat, either through the lesson or in the chat box. I know I am certainly missing my friends and can totally understand the need for this informal catch up, but lesson time is not the correct forum for this. We will try and build this into the structure of the week as an optional, supervised, additional session but it can't be done in the middle of maths! Please work with us at this time.

We have made alterations to lessons following some comments received last week which include access to calendars and the use of adults at home amongst others, there is nothing we can do with regards to content, time or new learning because of the legal framework in which we are working. Please send any comments through to myself at enquiries@prestonprimary.co.uk where we can and when appropriate, we will act on feedback. I can honestly say we are trying our best in a very strange time!

Year 2 children

The phonics results will be in the post to you on Monday, please contact school or the teacher via seesaw

And finally

From next week some staff will be participating in the twice weekly testing of themselves. This may result in early identification of Covid 19 and result in bubble closures, including on a Sunday. Any information on closures will be sent via the usual school comms route.

A big thankyou to Dr Williams, who this week delivered two hampers to North Tees for us. We wanted to show North Tees ICU department that the Preston family are thinking of them and are grateful for all they are doing.

My Charles Macksey picture this week, in the world today it is easy to compare ourselves to others, don't you are you and that's just fine.

Sue Richardson – Headteacher

