



Bardsey Primary School
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Acting Headteacher: Mark Knight

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

After only one day being back at school, what a shock and disappointment it was to all of us to find out on Monday evening that all schools were to close with the exception of children of key worker parents. With the joy at being reunited with their friends after the two-week break, I know there were a number of children upset at the prospect of being away from their friends yet again when national school closures were announced. This I know through talking to some parents yesterday. It is now like a re-run of the first Lockdown with schools closed and parents needing to home school. I feel for your children as I do for you as parents having been prepared and excited to come back for the start of the brand-new Spring Term.

Therefore, you can only imagine how much work there was for school staff to do following on from the Prime Minister's announcement. I myself was working well into the late evening on Monday to get things finalised so we were ready to welcome the children of key worker parents yesterday. Fortunately, I had foreseen what might happen and sent out a letter on Monday which helped to be prepared. We also met as a teaching staff on Monday after school and talked about what might be needed if schools were to close.

As stated, key worker groups started yesterday, one in Lower School and one in Upper School. Demand for places at both of these groups has been much higher than before, hence the text I sent out today closing applications to these groups. In fact, demand has been so high that I may require some of the teachers to help run these groups. So far, it is mainly been support staff timetabled to oversee these as the teachers need to spend their days running the remote learning for their class on a daily basis.

With the numbers being high in key worker groups though, two of the teachers have already been taken away from a day doing remote learning with their class to help run a key worker group. It may be that some of the other teachers may need to do this too. I am letting you know this as this will have a knock-on effect to how much remote learning provision a teacher can do with their class during the week. So, if you have a child at a key worker group and it is possible for them to be at home with a parent then please reconsider the need to send them into school. I realise this is not possible in many instances though.

Understandably, there were some initial technical issues with some of the Google Classroom work, but we will endeavour to iron out these in the coming days. I know though that there were some very productive meetings with classes virtually yesterday which is reflective of how hard the teachers have worked to make the remote learning as effective as possible. This is something new for many people and we are all finding out new things about it. Any feedback you have as parents about this would be useful to hear as well.



In the meantime, I hope you all stay healthy and well during this Lockdown period and I will do my utmost to communicate with you all as often as possible over the coming days and weeks, though I am timetabled to help run the key worker groups as well on three days so this will have a knock-on effect on my time. Please do not hesitate to contact school though if there is anything we can help you with. I hope you and your families stay safe and I am sure as a community we will work our way through what has been a difficult start to 2021.

Warmest wishes,

M. J. Knight

Acting Headteacher