

Headteacher

John Galvin

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Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents,

As you are aware there is much speculation in the news about primary schools opening and as I write this our school will be open on Monday 4th January 2021. The staff have been overwhelming positive in their response in keeping our school open.

In all honesty, and with the best will in the world, remote learning in primary schools does not work for most children. We have contingency plans if we have to teach children remotely, which include: one 'live' lesson per day with at least two other activities for the children to do at home. Each class will have an email address, so they can contact their teacher and send in their finished work. Times Tables Rockstars, Numbots and Spelling Shed will be part of the set work and we will also use a variety of resources including White Rose videos for maths.

To help us prevent closing schools we need your help:

- I will be instructing staff to wear masks/PPE if there is a possibility of them engaging with a parent, grandparent or carer.
- Please can you wear a mask as soon as you come onto the Herbert Shiner site. This is going to be impossible for us to 'police'. We will not challenge people as we will be relying on people being responsible.
- Please can you ensure you drop off (or if your child walks to school independently), that they arrive at their allotted time. We have had parents and children arriving up to 25 minutes before they are due to be in school.
- Due to sibling pick up/drop off people are staying on school site. Please can you ensure you keep your distance from other adults and that children are kept with you.
- As we are keen to keep the number of adults down to a minimum, please can only one adult collect/drop off the children.
- Please adhere to guidance of keeping 2m apart from each other.

None of the above is any different to what is expected in the general community and has been part of Government guidance since June. I am determined to keep schools open, but this can only happen if we can keep the 'R' rate down, which is at present below national. If everyone does their bit, our community will be a safer place.

I fully understand some parents will be extremely anxious about sending your child(ren) to school. No environment will be totally 'Covid safe' and as I have stated before, it will be only a matter of time when a 'bubble' is sent home. If you choose not to send in your child(ren) to school due to anxiety over Covid, I will not advise you are fined by our local authority. However, it will be your responsibility to ensure your child(ren) complete work at home. We can set work, but it may be different from what is happening in school. We have to be mindful that the class teacher will still have to teach the class.

Should you need to contact me today, please email slt@petworthprimary.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Galvin', is centered within a light pink rectangular box.

John Galvin
Headteacher