



Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of another very challenging week for everyone, I am writing to you today with two main updates. Before the updates, I wish to thank everyone who has supported school in our reorganising this week and the many messages of support as we continue to work with you and your children.

1. Critical Worker Care

As you are all aware we are continuing to run care for critical key workers in school. This provision is something which is crucial to support everyone in our community. All the staff and I are absolutely committed to supporting this.

However, in line with the national effort to reduce transmission of Covid 19, we are asking wherever possible **for children to remain at home**. In the Government's guidance for this provision they do state "**Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.**" We are incredibly appreciative of the many people who have taken such steps and worked around their shift patterns for the exact emergency provision they need, as this reduces numbers of children in the school at this time. We are asking everyone to review their needs to see if their place in school is **absolutely necessary**. As we are now 4 days into a national lockdown, it may be that this has provided opportunity for you to review your need of care as other options may have become available.

The well-being of staff is important to everyone and also is essential in order to ensure school is able to provide **remote learning** and **critical worker provision** moving forward. In addition, the well-being of our children and our whole community is something we all care about. Alongside our comprehensive risk assessments, we want to ensure there is as little an opportunity for any transmission of Covid-19 through less people in school. This is in support of the national lockdown and Government advice of **stay at home** whenever possible, **including the children of critical workers**.

It is also important to stress, the more children we have in school impacts on our capacity to provide remote learning, as staff are now running two different systems for teaching and learning. All children at home are receiving the same learning as the children in school.

If you feel that your needs have changed please send an email to bursar@aughtonchristchurch.lancs.sch.uk

2. Remote learning

Remote learning is now up and running for all children. We have been delighted by the responses from all children at home who are now engaging in this new form of learning. I'd like to sincerely thank our parents for all their support in setting this up with the many other challenges at this time. I also hope all of our parents understand that this is also a new experience for school in delivering learning in this way and there may be some aspects which we will have to evaluate and things may not always go to plan. I'd also like to remind all parents that in line with our policies and in support of all teachers, parents **do not post** comments about lessons online or on any social media. If you have any comments please do contact the teacher directly. We do value your support.

I can assure you that everyone in school is working incredibly hard to make sure we continue the children's learning in the best way. I must also stress that remote learning is very different to normal classroom practice and cannot replicate the way teachers normally work with children in a classroom. This means that children in critical worker provision will also not be receiving the normal classroom practice as we balance the different systems in school.

I am also aware that some families may be struggling with technology and we are working to resolve these issues for you. If you have a concern about accessing the online lessons, please let us know so we can work with you to ensure that your child is part of their virtual classroom. Attendance at these sessions is crucial for every child. We will be monitoring attendance carefully and if your child is not involved in our virtual classrooms or completing work we will be in touch to support you in resolving any concerns.

As part of remote learning, teachers will ask for responses from the children. This is working very well. We are asking children to only respond in the way the teacher has asked and with the tasks requested and that parents be mindful that teachers' commitments in school mean they are under restraints of when they can view and respond to work and comments. To further support teachers with online lessons, we also ask that parents ensure children enter the waiting room **5 minutes** before the timetabled session. This enables teachers to monitor attendance and to ensure the lesson runs smoothly. When children enter the session late, it does make delivering the lesson extremely difficult and staff may not always be able to admit children who miss the start of the zoom lesson.

As we have completed this week, I would like to sincerely say to all parents that I understand the significant challenges faced by you all in these unprecedented times. I also know that many of the emotions and difficulties we face may be unknown by others. What I do know is that our community is special to us all. Our school value this term is courage and when our school was open to everyone on Monday I held worship discussing this very value. I talked to the children about courage and I shared with them this quote:

"Courage does not always ROAR. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying "I will try again tomorrow."

Mary Anne Radmacher

It is my heartfelt belief that by working together and moving forward with courage and care for each other we will come through these challenging times once again. I know we will welcome everyone back to school in the future but until then we will continue to be here for you and your children in the best way we can.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe,

Mr D Kennedy

Head teacher