



Dear parents: I've done lots of different jobs and have worked in many countries before becoming a teacher and then a headteacher and they have all come in useful this week as we carry on during this pandemic. Been opening up around 6.30am in the freezing cold and rain, delivering test kits to local houses, helping to prep and carry high quality free school meals boxes (see below), navigating around local estates to drop off free laptops, stocking up the foodbank in our local church, preparing ICT tutorials, stacking chairs and tables with maths and reading books to go home oh and running a school. All of this of course could not take place without all our staff who have been amazing since we reopened. We are all getting used to new ways of working and delivering what is now known as Remote Learning ... (don't like that description myself). Teachers are either working from home or onsite supporting learning and adapting to new ways. Google Classrooms is now in place as are Google Meets, our website platform and Class Dojo. Nothing but nothing can replace children being in school and the sense of community that bestows. Online learning is fine for older pupils and secondary schools but particularly challenging for younger children and for those who have Special Educational Needs. Combining learning in school and with those at home at the same time with limited staff is also challenging but we are managing well and learning to adapt every day. Please do not worry if everything is not in place right away at home just do your best and tell your children you love them and this will all be over soon, please God.

Meanwhile we are up to 25% of our normal capacity around 5 times the maximum of last Spring with over 50 children registered, so we are most definitely NOT closed. I work every week as a head and NAHT rep with Public Health England and Hackney. I see the latest data. It is really very very serious and I do not wish to alarm anyone but the contagion rate is very very high just now. Please take this pandemic seriously and follow the rules and encourage others to do the same. Plus encourage the elderly to take up the vaccine opportunity. I will write more on this in the weeks to come. Lots of news below including a really great good news story to cheer everyone up this miserable mid-January. Always bleak and grim this time of year but even more challenging in 2021!

School next week ...

.... laptops please collect asap and start using them. They are brand new and are a loan. We have allocated over 20 already and thanks to the parent who donated one this morning very much appreciated.

If you have not yet collected White Rose Maths and other books from various classes please pick up asap. Children need books.

We will be looking at the various data bundles on offer for those who access the internet via phones. Details to follow.

We will be distributing meal vouchers when we get details on how to access them.

Remote learning gearing up with daily registers and tutorials on how to access and use Classrooms. Lots happening.

Pics of the week:

I was so proud of our caterer and the food boxes provided ...and then the whole national scandal broke. Some of those offerings shown on the media were pathetic ours were superb as are the packed lunches for those on site. Sadly not everyone wants to cook so what was left over went to our church foodbank or was doubled up. myself, Ms O'Grady and Mr James out at OLSJ Church Foodbank dropping off laptops and Ms Asia, Ms Sylvia and others handing out home learning books today some dedicated people in this community.



and finally ... really looking forward to this weekend now, worked all last weekend and most of Christmas so chill Saturday and probably watch West Ham lose to Burnley and get our best players injured by Burnley cloggers got some great new books this week ... Amazon are amazing. Both only published last Sunday ... Blood and Iron 1871-1918 by Katja Hoyer and rare Metal Wars by Guillaume Pitron: the Dark Side of Clean Energy been great talking this week to many of you and delighted that you have taken up some of my reading recommendations ... also going to watch ICARUS on Netflix can't wait true story ... director was on Joe Rogan podcast this week ... the great news is that one of our parents is now out of ICU after 6 terrifying days ... spoke on the phone today is on the mend and at home but scary and just this second heard of another Covid death the husband of an ex employee RIP Joe a really lovely man its not good out there so be extra careful roll on April !!!