



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Horrobin

Ferndale Primary And Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Dear Parents,

Friday 29th January 2021

We've all made it through 4 weeks of lockdown and we should all be exceptionally proud of ourselves! I have started this letter many times now, as depending on which news article you read and when, the reports on when we are looking at returning to school differ vastly! However, the Prime Minister has now announced that he will give an ending lockdown plan on 22nd February. The PM has also gone on to say that it will not be possible to re-open school in England after half term break in February but is hopeful it could happen from 8th March. So now as I type I have fingers crossed that this will be the case.

What does that mean for now...

We will remain open to vulnerable and key worker children, continue to provide home learning and Free School Meal vouchers for those families entitled to this.

We will continue to say, please don't worry if you can't access all the home learning set for your child/ren. We understand. We too have families and have to juggle home and work and we know and understand it is far from easy. We will continue to say well done to all of you for any part of learning you are managing to do and we will continue to work exceptionally hard as a school to support every child with their onward learning journey when they return to school.

As a family and as individuals mental health must come first. It is our job, with your support, to help your child close learning gaps when they return to school and move through Ferndale. You must not feel guilty if you do not complete all the learning set in a day. If your child is struggling or having an off day then put it to one side for that day, take the time whilst you're at home to go for a walk as a family, watch that film together you've always meant to watch and never had the time or watch Frozen for the 30th time! And don't feel guilty if you've got work to complete and your child is having an off day and you can't go for that walk, it's ok for them to be able to watch their favourite film whilst you're working. It has to be what works for you as a family! Remember, you also have us! You can ring us at anytime for support, advice, let off steam or just a chat.

When you can access learning, don't forget:

- There are daily videos for your child covering their year group curriculum for maths and literacy. These can be found on Ferndale's YouTube page.
- There are resources to support the maths and literacy lessons, guided reading and foundation tasks available on the school website under the children's tab and then clicking on your child's year group.



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If you struggle with any of these, let us know and we can print them off and you can pop into school to collect them.

- There are Zoom meetings for your child's class every Monday and Friday, please check your emails for details of these. This will increase after half term to Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- You can email your child's class teacher at anytime using the year group email addresses – see previous update letter for these.
- You can request a telephone call at anytime from your class teacher or teaching assistant to speak with you or your child.
- Your child can log in to Bug Club to support their reading and comprehension and Times Tables Rock Stars to support their maths. If you lose any log in details just let their teacher know through the year group email addresses.
- There is tapestry for Nursery and FS2 children so please check this daily for your child's activities.
- There is a story for your child at the end of each day, please look on our YouTube account for this.
- On a Monday and Friday there is an assembly, as there was in school before we went into lockdown, this can be accessed via our YouTube account.

Children at school are accessing the same learning so please don't think by your child being at home they are missing out on any lessons, all children whether at home or school are following the same lessons so that the delivery is the same for all.

Zoom calls:

These have been so successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I would highly recommend your child joining these as those that have been on, have been so excited to see their teachers and one another. If you have lost your log in details or they do not work please get in contact.

Some of you have been asking why we lock the meetings after 10 minutes. This is for safeguarding as it means no one else can join the meeting that has not been invited. Some of you have also had problems with logging your child on as it says you are already in a meeting when you're not. We think



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this is because if you have more than one child using your account but on different devices it will only let you join one meeting. If you have siblings logging in at similar times or when one is already in a meeting you will need to set up more than one account.

We are also going to increase these meetings after half term. The Zoom call will be on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays starting from the week beginning Monday 22nd February (after half term). The timings will be same on each day – hopefully easier to remember then! The log ins will be the same as your Monday logs ins – again hopefully less confusion.

Please Stay in Contact

Teachers will continue to ring individual children to make sure all children can be supported as needed. Please don't feel we're checking up on you, we really aren't! We're just ringing to touch base and see if we can help in anyway, so please pick the phone up to us or ring back if you miss it. Please note that to safeguard staff and to make sure we are supporting your child/ren or you in the right way we do keep a typed record of phone calls.

Please continue, when you can, to continue to email in your child's completed work. That way the teacher can respond, giving your child feedback and hopefully the motivation to continue with their home learning.

If we don't hear from you either over the phone, email or your child being on the Zoom call, we will write out to you so we can check you're ok. So that we can make the correct contact with you, please make sure if you move, change your telephone number or email address that you let the school office know so we can keep our records up-to-date.

Half Term

After the email letter from Mr Evans CEO of the Blue Kite Trust I can confirm we will not be open over half term. The last day of term is Friday 12th February and we will re-open to keyworker and vulnerable children on Monday 22nd February.

PE Update

We are very excited to let you know that Mr Little and Mrs Witherington have been busy and have recorded PE challenges for everyone to take part in. Please look out for these challenges on our



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YouTube account and if your child/ren takes part they can let Mr Little and Mrs Witherington know how they got on by emailing their class teacher using the year group emails.

Swindon Town FC

The Community Foundation have produced some activity worksheets which include English, Maths and PSHE exercises with a focus on football. The aim of these resources are to inspire children to engage in their learning whilst showing how these subjects are important in Football. These could be used as **additional** tasks and are available should you wish to access them using the following link: [PLPS Activities | Swindon Town FC Community Foundation \(stfcfoundation.com\)](https://www.stfcfoundation.com/PLPS-Activities)

They are encouraging children to send them their attempts at the worksheets, with the opportunity of their work being shared with the Premier League. Children can send their work in via email to brad@stfcfoundation.com or via our social media platforms - @STFCfoundation

Last week, STFC launched their first ever poetry competition. The deadline for entering a poem is Friday 12th February, with the topic of the poem being 'Staying Connected During the Lockdown'. Entries can be sent in via email to brad@stfcfoundation.com, with each individual entry needing the name of the author, school name and year group. The best entries will be published into a book, with the winners each receiving their own copy.

The Swindon Town FC Community Foundation Page on Face Book has weekly challenges and fitness videos and is well worth a look.

Governors

After over 9 years of being involved with the governing body and then stepping into the role as Chair of Governors, Rachel Rose has made the difficult decision to step down. Rachel has worked endlessly behind the scenes to support Ferndale. She has been part of the Ferndale journey as it moved from a school being close to being placed in special measures to a school that is now good with outstanding features and was paramount in that journey! Rachel has been involved in all parts of the school life, challenging and questioning when needed, but always supporting. As a school and as headteacher we thank her immensely for her time and support and wish her luck on her onwards journey.

Stepping into these mighty shoes, we welcome Mr Jake Chandler who was vice-chair and has worked for the last two years alongside Rachel. We also welcome as vice chair Mrs Candace Jackson-Collier. Mrs Jackson-Collier will also be taking on the role of Safeguarding governor.



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Technology and Internet Requests and Support

Don't forget if you have any problems with technology or accessing the Internet to get in touch with us. Please email Mrs Prevost on prevosts@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk and we will try our best to help you.

Free School Meals (not Universal Free School Meals)

Vouchers will continue after half term for anyone entitled to these. It might be worth checking if you're entitled to free school meal support if your situation has changed in anyway. You can check your entitlement by clicking on this link:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools_and_education/408/free_school_meals

Mental Well Being Support

On the school website as well as the well-being support on our 'Home learning' tab we also have support on 'Children' then 'Classes' tab. If you should require any further support we are always here to help, even if it's just for a virtual cup of tea! Please email either Miss Viney or Mrs David using the email address inclusion@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk

You can also request a phone call from the inclusion team if you feel your child or you would benefit from talking to either Miss Viney or Mrs David, at any time. Please either ring the school or email inclusion@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk to request this

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern whilst we are in lockdown please contact school on 01793 332425 and ask to speak to Miss Horrobin (Headteacher and DSL) or contact Swindon Mash: swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk Telephone: 01793 466903 (during normal office hours which are 8.30am to 4.40pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.00pm Friday). The Emergency Duty Service (EDS) is available outside office hours on 01793 436699

Safeguarding and E-Safety support can be found on the school website by clicking on this link:

<https://www.ferndaleprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=854>

COVID-19 Expectation if in School

If your child is attending school because they are a key worker or vulnerable child we expect the following:



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If your child, anyone in your child's household, or that they have been in contact with has symptoms of COVID-19 you must not send your child to school until that person has had a COVID-19 test with negative results. You must ring the school office on 01793 332425 to inform us of this.

If your child, anyone in your child's household, or that they have been in contact with has a positive COVID-19 result you must not send your child to school and you must follow the latest government guidelines on self-isolating, these can be found [here](#). You must ring the school office on 01793 332425 to inform us of this.

The latest advice from the Government is [here](#). Information on Covid-19 symptoms can be found [here](#).

Stay safe everyone and look out for one another (safely of course 😊)

Miss L Horrobin
Headteacher

THE SWINDON TRAILBLAZER'S

ONLINE YOUTH CLUB

Want something different to do? Interested in connecting with young people from different schools?

We provide a free resource pack to everyone signed up, ensuring you can join in with all activities.

Icebreakers, memory games, art and crafts, challenges, quizzes and more!

Age groups: 5-7, 7-11 and 11-16

Follow this link to sign up for our online sessions:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/swindon-trailblazers-outreach-team-32372666431>

For more information contact Saxone or Tamara on
outreach.swindontrailblazer@barnardos.org.uk
or call 07395712261/07783847583