

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are keeping well and surviving the second week of lockdown and blended learning. Could I take this opportunity to thank you for the messages of support and encouragement that we have received this week – they are much appreciated.

Blended Learning

Schools have been asked to give regular feedback to parents about blended learning and their child's engagement throughout this lockdown period. To make this as straightforward as possible within our current systems, we will be using Ripples and Clicks to do this. Ripples will continue to be awarded to recognise positive work. Teachers have been asked to give a 'key piece of work click' when a key piece of work is not submitted. Please note, this is not the same as a behaviour sanction and is not there as a punishment. This is so that we can inform you about engagement in remote learning and so that we can track engagement across school. The purpose of this is so we know where we need to provide extra support if necessary.

I know that learning from home is a struggle for some children and that for parents juggling working from home and supporting children learning at home can be a source of stress. If your child is struggling to keep up with their remote learning please do get in touch with your child's progress leaders so we can support them and so that this doesn't become a source of anxiety at an already difficult time.

Progress Leaders and Senior Leaders will be looking at the whole picture of Ripples, key pieces of work completion, attendance at live lessons and firefly log-on information. We will get in touch where we feel there is a pattern of non-engagement so that we can look at ways to try and support your child.

Year 11 and Year13

As you will no doubt be aware there is still much talk in the media about exams and what is likely to happen. We will give you more detail when we have it. For now, the main message to our Year 11 and Year 13 is to keep working hard and completing the work set by their teachers to the best of their ability.

Testing

To keep you updated, our Lateral Flow testing centre is up and running in the school gym. This week we have tested all the staff and the consenting key worker children who were in on Friday. I am very grateful to the staff involved in making this happen. The test centre is very impressive!

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

The Bay Learning Trust. Company Number: 07588464
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Music Tuition

Mr Gillthorpe has sent an email to all parents whose children have instrumental or vocal tuition in school. Please respond to the questionnaire as soon as possible so we can plan provision accordingly.

Support for families

If you find yourself in difficult circumstances or in need of help or support during this time, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We have links with various agencies and can signpost you to the help needed.

I wish you a restful weekend. I know many of you will be looking forward to some time away from computer screens!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Walmsley
Principal