



# Anston Greenlands Primary School

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



<b>February</b> Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Last day – half term follows – return to school Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
<b>March</b> Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Last day – Easter holiday follows – return to school Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>May</b> Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day – school closed to children Last day – half term follows – return to school Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>July</b> Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Last day – summer holiday follows

### Thank you!

We're now firmly into the swing of lockdown and I really am blown away by the response from our children, staff, parents and carers. Thank you all so much for adapting to this situation as well as you have. It's a constant challenge for us all but to have 100% of our children engaged in learning is just fantastic! I don't know of any other schools where this is the case; our entire community deserves to feel proud for keeping things as normal as possible in the face of such huge obstacles. Thank you very much.

### Contacting Teachers

One of the benefits of the current situation is increased direct communication between parents and teachers. This is most definitely a positive thing! However I wanted to write to you with a request. We're trying very hard to minimise the additional workload caused by the current arrangements, but despite this, like in many jobs, our teachers are having to work late into the evening most days. I should add that they're doing this entirely without complaint; however I am aware that when emails come in late at night with issues or problems, teachers are seeing these and feeling compelled to answer them immediately. Of course, I can tell staff that they needn't do this, but we all know it isn't that easy in practice! We all want to please our families and once staff have seen that late email, it will often play on their mind for the rest of the night if they don't respond. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that a late email often leads to a sleepless night, even if the issue isn't really that big! I understand of course that for working parents, the evening is usually the best time to write such an email, but I'd like to ask that rather than sending your message at night, you consider saving it in your drafts and sending it in the morning. That small change would make a big difference for us and I'd really appreciate it. Thank you!

### Half Term Holidays

We have been informed that schools will not be open to any children over the half term holiday. In a similar vein to my message above, I'm going to ask teaching staff to take some time away from their emails, so please be aware that you may not receive a response as quickly as usual. **If your child develops Covid symptoms within 48 hours of being in school and goes on to test positive, please contact school on [contact@greenlandsprimary.org](mailto:contact@greenlandsprimary.org) as soon as possible.** Many thanks.

### Reminder: Key Worker Places - Please Help If You Can!

As you may have seen in the press, schools are receiving far more key workers than we did in March. At



Greenlands, we now have **46% of our children accessing Key Worker places**. I'm sure many of you will share my concern that this could drastically reduce the impact of lockdown locally. If you can help in any way, please do. As you know, children can access Key Worker places if just one parent is on the list; however, the guidance now asks that families in this situation, who have another adult at home, **only use the provision if absolutely necessary**. We are asking that you please only book your child into school on days when you have **no other option**. A number of parents who qualify for places have told us they'd just rather their children were in school, or that it's hard to balance home learning and working from home. Please know that I empathise completely – I know how hard that is from personal experience and I will trust your judgement on it totally. However I do need to request that you think very carefully before sending your child to school and use this provision only as a last resort; as a school, that's the best way we can help this lockdown have the impact it was intended to within our community. Thank you very much for your understanding with this.

### Whole School Songwriting Project

Tomorrow is the start of our whole school online song writing project! This optional lesson will take place at 1.30pm (Zoom invitation has been emailed) and will replace class-based learning for this session. It's open to every child in school – please note that younger children will need adult support to contribute ideas etc. but you're more than welcome to let them watch independently if this isn't possible.

### Reminder: Help With Getting Online

We have some school iPads / laptops which we are happy to loan to children who do not have access to a device at home. Please contact us in school to arrange this.

### Reminder: Free Mobile Data!

If you're worried about the impact of home learning on your mobile data costs, we may be able to help! Schools can now request mobile data increases for children who meet all 3 of these criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Please contact us in school if you'd like to discuss this further.

### Reminder: Free School Meals

If your child is usually eligible for Free School Meals (not including Universal Infant FSM), please remember that you can order a packed lunch each day, to be collected from school. Simply let us know before 10.30am each day to reserve your meal.

### Finally

Thank you as always for your support. I sincerely hope you and your loved ones are all keeping healthy and managing to stay positive. As ever, if you have any problems or questions that I haven't addressed in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us in school. Thank you.