



24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we proceed in the current situation can we please clarify:

- Work packs will be sent on a weekly basis via email. It is also our intention to make the packs available via the school's website.

<https://baldwinsgateprimary.weebly.com/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus.html>

The packs are sent to be helpful – there are currently lots of resources available for parents to use at home.

- Parents can email their class teacher during school hours. They will endeavour to reply within 24 hours. Could we please ask that parents contact their child's class teacher by email at least once a week.
- "Keep in touch" videos will be uploaded on a weekly basis on the school's Facebook page.
- If your child is struggling with the social and emotional aspects of lockdown please mention this when you email his/her class teacher.

The DfE has advised that The Oak National Academy has set up on-line lessons for most year groups. We have looked at these and our thoughts are set out below:

- The lessons cover the National Curriculum concepts and content.
- They are a change from pen and paper methods so may appeal more to some children. Please be aware it may increase screen time.
- The lessons involve a lot of direct talking to the child as there are no question/answer sessions.
- Lessons move back and forward to video clips and, in the first instance, would need an adult to help with the process.
- There are, particularly in English, a lot of words on the screen.
- Some children will engage really well, others may not. The maths, with less words, are a good starting point.
- We would recommend that you have a look at them. You can also access the year below to gain confidence on the system.

The Oak National Academy can be accessed here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

In response to queries regarding the use of ICT during the current situation, I have consulted Staffordshire Safeguarding Board and their recommendations and guidance is as follows:

- Schools should not attempt to use systems they have not used previously, have not tested or risk assessed. Now is not the time, particularly with increasing concerns regarding internet use to be prioritising the introduction of new systems.
- Small schools will not have all the technologies and some families may not have access causing issues with equality and discrimination.

Recommendations are that schools use pre-recorded communication which can be controlled and evidenced. Webinars are the preferred method. These can be uploaded and accessed via a website.

Parents have mentioned "Zoom" but there is significant guidance as to measures which must be in place and there has also been inappropriate usage.

We are looking at some options but the safeguarding recommendations are extensive and we would need to be fully risk assessed and compliant.

Please be understanding of the safeguarding requirements we have to fulfil.

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs C Lowe  
Headteacher