



Where Children Come First

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Hello all

Week 3 of lockdown – DONE!

I am sure it has been a hard slog for us all this week - middle of January, torrential rain, remote learning, live learning, work... not forgetting COVID19 of course. We are all hearing of more and more cases in our community and families. It is all very sobering and hard to hear about. We totally appreciate that this is a trying time for a lot of you with illness and bereavement on top of the daily 'groundhog day' matters of lockdown. At least the sun is shining today.

**Live Lessons:** Well, I can officially tell you: **you have all done very well indeed!** As the week has progressed, the live lessons have been more successful, and the children have responded well to them. I know that some of you think they are a nightmare, and we are fine with that; if they do not float your boat or work for you then we are happy that your child does not take part. The packs on the website will be there every day, so just carry on with those. Your class teachers will inform you of more lessons and updates in their ParentHub messages – so look out for those please. I know it is stressful when the devices play up or you get 'thrown' out of Teams etc – try not to worry about it though. I am delighted to say that we have higher engagement in communication and remote learning from our children than we did in Lockdown 1 – fantastic!

**COVID19 Update:** the numbers of cases per 100,000 are dropping but Cherwell is still higher than Oxford City and Oxfordshire as a whole.

The Grange Community Primary School

National Restrictions  
Cherwell's alert level 1

### COVID rate around school 1



Data last updated on Thursday 21st January 2021 1

With Johnson raising my blood pressure yesterday saying the current Covid restrictions could continue well into the spring and beyond and Williamson saying that schools will have a fortnight's notice for reopening, I am left wondering whether we are not looking at a May slackening. The first ever DfE document about school attendance last March gave May 21 as the date of things getting under control, so I wonder if May will be a shift in the right direction...



**Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff:** The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to work in as safe an environment as possible – although only two members have been hit with it as far as I know and that was during holiday time. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the possible spread in our community.

**Sniff of a positive test result means closure of bubble at school:** We have taken receipt of the staff lateral flow devices that we will start using from Monday 25 January. We will carry them out first thing Monday (from home) and first thing Friday morning (from home). If any tests are positive, then we are talking bubble/cohort closures until the result of the following PCR test – if that is positive, then we are talking a 10-day closure. It will be interesting to see how this all pans out... Unfortunately, Monday and Friday mornings are going to be slightly precarious until I know that all staff are 'negative'.

**Communication:** We have received many emails from you this week which is great. If you want to email a teacher, please do so via the office email address: [office.2058@grange.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2058@grange.oxon.sch.uk) .

**Exercise books:** We have run out of them. Please look out for a message early next week about new exercise books being available for collection – they are on order.

That's it for now. I hope that you are all ok at home. We really appreciate what you are doing to keep the children engaged in their learning and we fully understand that whilst working from home, it is a massive strain. I am sensing fatigue, malaise and despair in some; my husband is sensing all three in me! But we must keep going, we must – there is no other alternative and as I was told as a nipper: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

Do not forget to contact school if you need anything.

Have a great weekend everyone.



Ms Boswell

