



# CREST INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Protect yourselves, your families and the wider school community during this lockdown period...**



This is a lengthy letter so please do read to the end! Newsletters will be sent out every other week during the lockdown period

Dear Parents & Carers,

This is not the start to the year we all hoped for but we will support one another through the next few weeks.

## HOME LEARNING

We do understand the strain of trying to do the home learning with the children and we are here to support you. We know many of you are working from home in addition to home learning as many of the staff here are as well.

**Everything you need for home learning is on the website ([www.crestinfants.co.uk](http://www.crestinfants.co.uk)) in the Remote (Home) Learning section. This will be updated each day.**

The weekly plans will be emailed to you on ParentMail each Monday (Year 1 parents, you have all yours already and no, we didn't have a crystal ball!)

As already mentioned, the teachers are filming lesson introductions to help you so if your child does nothing else, please do use these resources. There will also be other activities and stories for the children to watch and take part in. The film clips are a lovely way of your child seeing a familiar face from school. They take much longer to prepare than the 5 or so minutes they last but I think most of the staff are enjoying creating them.

We are using this format as it means parents can support their child's learning when it suits them rather than us giving a specific time to log on to a virtual session. We do not consider that a virtual learning environment is appropriate for our young children in any case. It is more suited to Junior and Senior school pupils.

It was announced yesterday that from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, the [BBC](http://www.bbc.com) will also have daily 3 hour home learning resource which may well support you as well (channels 607 for Sky/Virgin Media or 201 for Freeview). The children are NOT expected to do a whole school day and sessions should be short with a break in between. You are all only human – please do not stress. We know what children can be like!



For now, your main communication is via the year group email addresses we have set up so the teachers can support you. All questions about learning or the activities set should be asked through these.

Here they are again:

[eyfs@crestinf.medway.sch.uk](mailto:eyfs@crestinf.medway.sch.uk) (for Reception & Nursery)

[year1@crestinf.medway.sch.uk](mailto:year1@crestinf.medway.sch.uk)

[year2@crestinf.medway.sch.uk](mailto:year2@crestinf.medway.sch.uk)

Please only use the office email for other queries e.g. food hampers, attendance, admissions. Thank you.

## SAFEGUARDING – IMPORTANT



As we did in the first lockdown, so we know you are all safe, we are asking you to check in on the year group email address for your child a minimum of once a week. Please support us in our duty of care by doing this.

### Sharing home learning...



It would be lovely to share all the wonderful things you do at home. You do a great job, honestly. During the isolation periods before Christmas we were genuinely impressed with what the children had been up to.

If you are happy to have a photograph shared, either on here in future newsletters or on our closed Facebook group, please tell us when you email in to your child's year group.

### Support for Childcare

We fully appreciate how difficult this situation is for many of our families in juggling home working, critical worker roles and trying to organize childcare for your children. With the announcement that schools will be closed until February half term, this is even more of a challenge for some.

Our key worker allocation has to be based on safety and there are maximum numbers of children we can have in each bubble under Tier 5 restrictions. We, unfortunately cannot accept any more children for the time being and keep it safe for all.

In addition to the keyworker cover, there are many other roles we need to ensure are covered such as ensuring the government's guidance on home learning for all children is fulfilled; ensuring that the school meets its safeguarding responsibilities which include daily access to a Designated Safeguarding lead and sufficient first aid trained staff and ensuring we keep in touch with families who need. With some staff members isolating, staffing could become a real issue. We also have to ensure staff are working in as safe an environment as possible while meeting all of the above. The rate of positivity in Medway is very high and the new variant is extremely transmissible.

If parents who have accepted a place later find that they can keep their child safely at home after all, I ask that they contact us via the [kwsurvey@crestinf.medway.sch.uk](mailto:kwsurvey@crestinf.medway.sch.uk) email address so we can prioritise that place for a family who may need it.

We know that some families will continue to need to seek support for emergency childcare. If this is the case, then please still contact the school in the first instance and we will create a priority waiting list for those who are eligible, should places become available.

Parents who need to work may find this link extremely useful: [Information for Working Parents](#)

Families may also wish to explore useful local advice and services which can be found [here](#).

Advice from the government to support learning at home can be found [here](#) (but please do consult your child's teacher in the first instance if you are unsure)

We know you will all appreciate that we are doing our very best, but our capacity to support all families needing childcare is finite. This is an extremely difficult situation for us all but we must all be governed by the urgent need to reduce the spread of the virus; as recognised by the government this can only be achieved by having the lowest possible numbers of children/households mixing in school.



## Well-being

**YOU ARE  
NOT ALONE**

It is so important at times like these that we all look after ourselves.

The website below contains some useful advice for adults. It is natural for us to feel anxious, fed up and stressed. We are not all in the same boat but we are weathering the same storm...

Please do have a look:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

Children too will feel worried at times. The link below has ideas for supporting them through this difficult time.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Please take good care of yourselves – we are here to support you and genuinely want to do that.

With best wishes,

*Mrs. Shields & all of Team Crest*

## Finally, and with HUGE importance...

A message for our wonderful children... (please read this to your child or let your child read it themselves if they can)

Dear Children,

We are sorry that we can't see most of you in person at the moment but we have to work together to keep everyone as safe as we can.

Your teachers and teaching assistants have been very busy making film clips so you can still see them each day and they know you will all try your best at home and help your grown-ups by being a true Crest Learner. We are all excited to see all the wonderful things you are doing at home so please listen to your grown-ups because they are your teachers for now and they need you to be the best you can be.

We know it's not easy so please make sure you also do things that make you happy – get outside lots if you can; try a new game; help out around the house and if you have younger brothers or sisters, help out with them too.

We miss you all and can't wait until we can all be together again at school.

Lots of love from us all at Crest xxx

