



The first newsletter of a new term usually begins with a welcome back to all of our children and families. We would still like to warmly welcome you all back to the Spring Term albeit under very different circumstances, but sadly not a new situation that we find ourselves in. Like you, we are disappointed to once again be in a position where the majority of our children are not in school. We know this lockdown will be very different to the first one as everyone knows what to expect and it's a dark and cold time of year, but we know that children, parents and staff alike will pull together once again and show the Saxon resilience we always speak of! We know it's hard, so all of the staff are committed to supporting the children at home and in school to the best of their ability, and we encourage parents to continue to work with us as we know partnership working is in the best interests of the children. Thank you for all the kind words of support that have been emailed to us or shared on the gate, they are very much appreciated by all of the staff and help keep everyone's spirits up!

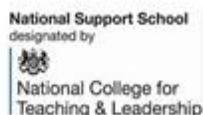
To give some context to the numbers of children in school, we are currently accommodating approx. 25% of our school roll. This is in comparison to the 4% of our community that we had in school during the first lockdown in March/April. This huge increase in numbers is due to the expectation to accommodate more vulnerable children, furthermore, the list of what constitutes a critical worker compared to the first lockdown has extended to include more roles. The list is not only in response to the Covid-19 pandemic but now includes those parents whose role is critical to the EU transition response. We know some parents are disappointed not to have been allocated a place for their child, but please be assured we have done everything we can to accommodate everyone's situations whilst trying to keep numbers low, which will protect our community, help the NHS and ultimately save lives.

Google Classroom & Learning at Home

Our remote learning offer has evolved since the first partial school closure and all learning will now be accessed via Google Classroom. Thank you to all of the parents who have brought their technical issues and challenges to us, this way we can help you resolve them and get your child online and learning as promptly as possible. Please continue to do this but can we ask that parents send these emails via the learning.saxon@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk address and not the info.saxon one? The learning account is monitored by Mrs Hartshorn and Miss Doherty throughout the day and is the quickest way for you to receive help. A reminder that Miss Revels-Hull has recorded two brilliant 'how to' videos which have been emailed to parents and uploaded to Google Classroom. The video sent today is particularly helpful as we know many of you are accessing the classrooms via a tablet or phone. A parent guide was also sent before the holidays and is on Google Classroom too.

The teachers will be ensuring that all learning can be completed online and that sheets are accessible. You can of course choose to print them for your child to complete and then share a photo of the learning with the teacher, but you shouldn't have to do this, even when using a tablet.

Hopefully, parents saw our Facebook post earlier in the week sharing information about accessing Google Classroom via a PlayStation or Xbox. This is a good alternative in the event you are sharing devices amongst the family and have one of these consoles.



We have had several requests from parents asking for 'live' lessons during the day via Zoom. We have and continue to deliberate this as an option, however, there are many considerations to take into account, not least the safeguarding measures that would need to be put in place. We will continue to give it serious thought. We have also been asked for more learning to be set, however, we know there will also be parents who find the current offer too much or just right for them. It is not possible or expected that children will sit for the 6 hours of the usual school day at home. In school, the day is divided up through breaks and lunch; English or Maths learning at home won't last the length of a usual hour's lesson and that's ok. We suggest parents adopt a schedule that works for them, whether that's to mirror the school day, set aside time in the morning/afternoon for learning or allow sections of time throughout the day where learning is the focus. New guidance was published yesterday evening and we are reviewing this to ensure we are meeting the Government's expectations. In regards to online learning, it states that lessons should include 'recorded or live direct teaching time', children in KS1 should have access to 3 hours learning (less for younger children) and KS2 children, 4 hours. Currently, we feel we are meeting these requirements but will continue to review our provision.

Below, you will see when your child's class teacher is in school. During this week, they will be responding to the children's learning online at intervals throughout the day and after school; please bear this in mind when awaiting a reply to an email or request for support. In line with our Remote Learning Contingency Plan, teachers will send specific feedback to children twice a week. Feedback also includes teachers responding to learning by 'returning' a child's piece of work to them.

We know children and parents will need time to adjust to this way of working whilst juggling working from home and all that a lockdown brings to life at home. To support the way you need to organise your day/week, you will notice that there aren't any 'deadlines' or due in dates for the learning. It is perfectly fine for parents to create their own schedule and this may include working a day or two behind, in the evenings or at weekends.

Learning in School

The children in school have shown their resilience and positive attitude over the last two days, and whilst school feels strange to us all, the children have enjoyed their two days in school this week. We have 7 groups of children in school, one per year group. As with the first partial school closure, in order to reduce the number of staff in school and the risk of the virus spreading, staff will be in school on a rota basis as follows:

Group	Staff in School	
	Wks Beg 11/1; 25/1; 8/2	Wks Beg 18/1; 1/2;
Reception	Mrs Williams-Hall & Mrs Slatter	Mrs Leka & Mrs George
Year 1	Miss Farrington & Mrs Waldock	Miss Kavanagh & Mrs Davison
Year 2	Miss Parsons & Mrs Edwards	Miss Doughty (M-W)/Mrs Morley (W-F) & Mrs Ricks
Year 3	Mrs Williams & Mrs Laws/Mrs Tomlins	Miss Plumber & Mrs Laws/Mrs Hill
Year 4	Miss Brown & Mrs Montellier	Miss Leney & Mrs Thomas
Year 5	Mrs Golding & Mrs Davies	Mrs Nalder & Ms Milgate
Year 6	Miss Dodd & Mrs Morris	Miss Revels-Hull & Mrs Keane

Teachers will rotate on a weekly basis with them teaching in school one week and the next week continuing to set learning and respond to children whilst working from home. There are additional TAs supporting some of our groups throughout school too.

Please remember to send your child in with a piece of fruit for a snack each day. Our fruit and milk schemes are paused during lockdown, parents will hear directly from Cool Milk direct regarding a refund if you pay for your child to receive milk in school. The children continue to need a spare pair of shoes for playtimes.

Parents can drop off their child/ren between 8:30 and 8:45am each day. Parents should not be arranging for parents of other children in school to collect their child at the end of the day. This is to reduce the mixing of contacts within our bubbles and help to keep everyone safe.

Staff News

On Monday, we welcomed Mrs Golding, Mrs Bajaj and Mrs Clarke to the Saxon team. Unfortunately, they only had one day in school before the closure announcement but we look forward to working with them all.

We are also pleased to share that we have appointed a new School Business Manager, Mrs Rhona Richards, who will be joining the team on the 12th February.

Free School Meals

We are still awaiting guidance on the allocation of food parcels for our children and families who are entitled to Free School Meals. We know this may be a concern to some of our families and we will update you as soon as we can. Currently, it is likely that parents will be provided with a food parcel rather than vouchers. If this is the case, we will organise a collection system. Please note, due to the increased number of staff in school and the expectation to provide a full learning offer compared to the previous lockdown, we are unable to deliver food parcels to parents unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Office Opening Hours

The school office will be open from 8am to 4pm. The info.saxon account is monitored throughout the evening and at weekends, particularly for messages related to Covid-19 symptoms and testing of children in school.

Collection of PE Kits

On Wednesday 13th January, parents will be able to come and collect any of their child's belongings between the hours of 10am and 4pm. There will be a table per year group set out in the car park. Please note, in the event of wet weather, we will make alternative arrangements on a different date.

PSHE Learning

Parents will remember from information sent before Christmas, that the focus of the PSHE lessons was due to be Relationships & Sex Education (RSE). We are unable to deliver these lessons remotely and need all children in school before these lessons can be taught. Therefore, the focus of the learning will be the topic 'Dreams & Goals' and the RSE learning will be delivered later in the year.

Reception Cohort 2021

A final reminder that the application deadline for Reception 2021 school places is Friday 15th January.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Davis & Miss Morris
Headteachers