



Sharlston Community School
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Dear families

This week is Children's Mental Health Week, and class teachers will be adapting the normal timetable to plan activities in support of this. With so many children separated from friends and worried about the pandemic, mental health and wellbeing is more important than ever. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself' and is about finding ways to share feelings, thought or ideas, all through creativity. Look out for links and ideas on the class TEAMS pages and also on our social media - @SharlstonSchool for Twitter and Sharlston Community School for Facebook - or find more information by clicking the link here: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>. It is also worth noting that up to date messages about the school (bad weather meaning a move to remote learning etc) are also posted on Twitter and Facebook as there is sometimes a delay with Parentmail messages being received, despite school sending them out ASAP.

It is really great to see that the majority of our children are now regularly accessing the remote lessons being placed on TEAMS. The opportunities created by TEAMS means that children's learning continues and class teachers can ensure all pupils are supported to make progress in a much more effective way than simply handing out worksheets. We are hopeful of the return of all primary children to school on March 8th, and will update you on this after half term when the government inform us of their decision. In the meantime, it is vitally important that the daily routine of a school day is followed, with the usual expectation (where device access makes it possible) of children being up and ready to start their learning at 9am. This will really help support the transition back into the routine of school when they do all eventually return. Teaching staff are keen to see every child in their class at the live sessions each day. I would urge parents to ensure their children access these, as they are both supportive with learning, and also important socially, as children are able to communicate together as a class.

As you may be aware, the government has decided that schools will close for half term as usual, so Key Worker and vulnerable pupils will not be offered school places for Monday 15th – Friday 19th February. Please book Key Worker places for the week after half term by completing the usual form by Wednesday 10th Feb.

Our building work is progressing well, and we have lovely newly decorated classrooms awaiting the full return of Danube and Indus classes. During this current partial school closure, these rooms are not yet being used, as the KS1 bubble are based in classrooms on the main corridor. The latest phase of our building work involves an area of work near the main entrance area, which, for safety reasons, means this cannot be used for access to school. From Weds 3rd Feb the main office will therefore be temporarily relocating to the other end of school, and the main entrance into school will be via the car park gates and up the steps. **There will therefore be NO ACCESS INTO SCHOOL VIA THE USUAL SCHOOL GATE AND MAIN OFFICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** We will inform all parents of any changes to the usual entrance and exits, as and when school returns to normal in March.

The car park gates will be kept locked between 8:40am and 3:25pm. All enquiries to the main office should be made via phone call or email where possible. If parents/visitors need to attend school in person, for reasons such as collecting children early, or handing in medicines, then there will be a bell and intercom on the car park gates. Please try and call in advance if you need to visit school. **ALL Reception, KS1 and KS2 children** who have places in school, should continue to enter and leave via the **main school field gate** between 8:40 and 8:50am, where a morning register is taken. Nursery parents (ONLY) should use their usual route via the Children's Centre pathway.

Please contact school if you are concerned about your child's mental health, or have any queries about online learning, as we are more than happy to help and support. Remember to keep shining at Sharlston!

Mrs Dunderdale Headteacher