

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School  
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**Headteacher: Mike Riches**



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

### Questions

We have devised a list of questions that you may have - along with their answers. If you have any further questions, please do keep in touch and ask your child's class teacher.

*When will all children be able to safely return to school?*

At the moment we do not know. We are keeping a close eye on this one and have been informed today that we will be given two weeks' notice, when the time comes. Our hope is that we can return straight after February half term. When we know more, we will be sure to let you know all of the measures we will be taking to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents.

*Are children in school doing different things to those at home?*

On the whole, the children in school are doing exactly the same as those at home. All children in school follow the same pattern shared by the teachers and are doing the same activities; they also take part in the live lessons each day. The main difference is that Swift Sports coaches are still visiting, so this means the children in school receive a sports session each week – this gives the teachers a chance to focus on planning lessons and responding to any work that has been submitted.

*Why is school not providing a full day of live lessons?*

We feel this would be unsuitable for children of primary age due to the length of time sat looking at a computer screen. We know that this has significant potential to impact negatively on children's physical and mental health. We also recognise that most families are sharing laptops or other devices amongst several children in their family, then also using the same device for their own work. We know it would not be manageable for many families to have 3 live lessons through the school day.

We are constantly reviewing the systems we have in place based on feedback received from families and from comparisons with other schools both locally and nationally. We are satisfied that the current systems are working well and do not feel it would be appropriate to make any significant changes at this stage. We will therefore keep all current systems in place for the duration of this term. If any changes are made, we will give you as much notice as possible. We recognise that no system will be perfect for every family and take on board that this is a very challenging time for many families.



### Questions continued

*What should I do if my child is struggling with the work? How much support should I give?*

It is important that all families remain flexible in their approach. All children work differently depending on their age and how they are used to working in school – some may be able to work for a sustained period of time independently and some may need more support. Please do not worry if you hear that other children are working in a different way to your own. It is often helpful to give children a balance of support and to promote independence, particularly to older children. Please contact your child's class teacher if you need any advice or support.

*Will children and staff be tested for Covid-19 in school?*

Staff will begin using home testing kits from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February; this will be carried out using a LFD (lateral flow device) test. This will take place twice each week and is an optional but strongly encouraged practice. We do not know of any plans for primary aged children to be tested at this time.

*Will school staff be prioritised to receive the vaccine?*

School staff are due to receive the vaccine if they meet the current age and health related priorities only. There are currently calls for school staff to receive the vaccine sooner than this, but at the moment this is not the case. Primary aged children do not form part of the vaccination programme.

Further information about our remote learning plans are available on our school website:

<https://www.ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk/learning/google-classroom/>

### Mental health week

The mental health of children and young people has been affected more than ever over the past year, with the impact of the pandemic on top of the usual pressures they face. To help raise awareness of **Children and Young People's Mental Health** the Local Authority is hosting a **webinar series** that will launch during **Children's Mental Health Week** (1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021) and continue **throughout February 2021**. If you are based in South Glos, work with children and young people, are a parent/carer, or a young person there are **webinars for everyone!** So please take a look at the fantastic range of sessions on offer and book your place.

**All sessions are FREE**

**For more information and to book:** [Webinar Series | Mind you \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

If you have any questions please contact the Public Health Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Team at [MentalHealth@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:MentalHealth@southglos.gov.uk)

### INSET day

Our next INSET day will take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – please treat this as a normal INSET day. We do not know if schools will be open by then, but Iron Acton will be closed to all children and this includes all children in school at the moment. We will not be setting any work on Google Classrooms nor carrying out any 1:1 interventions.



### Friends of Iron Acton School

Friends of Iron Acton School are excited to announce a virtual Lands End to John O'Groats lockdown challenge! All the children (and staff) are invited to take part and help raise money for the school whilst keeping fit during lockdown.

The challenge is to collectively travel the distance from Lands End to John O'Groats, 874 miles, by non-motorised means - such as walking, running, scooting, cycling and skating - in 2 weeks, **between 30 January and 12 February**. Children who are still attending school are going to be taking part at school so please do sign your children up if that applies to you.

We've set up a sponsorship page so that the children can ask families and friends to support them and the school on their journey: please see link below and share it with as many people as possible! Whilst online donations are preferred due to COVID hygiene reasons, any funds raised in cash can also be added to the pot: just let school have your collection in a sealed envelope / bag. All funds raised will be spent on the school - it would be great to raise as much as possible seeing as we haven't been able to have our usual fundraising events over the past year.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/p538n-lands-end-to-john-ogroats?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-l](https://www.gofundme.com/f/p538n-lands-end-to-john-ogroats?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-l)

We're not setting an individual target as we recognise that everyone will have different abilities and the method used will affect the number of miles covered. What we ask is that everyone does what they can - and do log even the odd mile here and there, every bit helps us achieve our target!

Please register for the event using the below link before 29 January so that we know who is involved: everyone who takes part will receive a medal afterwards to remember their achievement!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KBTM7SV>

You'll be able to log your miles as we go along: we'll share details of how to do that once we kick off. We hope you enjoy getting outdoors and having fun with a purpose whilst raising much needed funds for our wonderful school!



### IT support

We have now received our allocation of laptops from the Government and these have been distributed to those eligible. Unfortunately, we have been advised by the South Gloucestershire legal team that we are unable to accept donation of laptops from members of the public, who no longer need them.

Please note that Google Classrooms can be accessed using a Playstation or an Xbox. Instructions on how to do this can be easily found online.

Families can also request free mobile data increases for those without broadband or are struggling to afford extra data due to an increase in usage related to online working. Many providers are taking part in the scheme. More information can be found at: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/>

If you need school to help you with any of this please let us know as soon as possible.

### Dates for your diary

Event	Date and time	Information
Children's mental health week	01.02.21	See information on this newsletter.
Online safety day	09.02.21	Miss Abley will share more information nearer the time.
Last day of Term 3	12.02.21 3.15pm	
INSET day	22.02.21 All day	This will definitely go ahead meaning school will be closed to all.
First day of Term 4	23.02.21 8.55am	We will give you as much notice as possible about this. However, we know that this is subject to change at very short notice.
Parent/teacher meetings	01.03.21 03.03.21	Appointments will be organised at the end of Term 3.
World Book Day	04.03.21	We aim to ask children to dress up this year.
Last day of Term 4	01.04.21 3.15pm	

**Please note: these dates may be changed or cancelled if necessary. We will try to provide as much notice as possible if this is the case.**

