

**WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORATE**

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COVID-19 Lockdown 3 – Letter 3

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well. What a week, not one that I was expecting (each week brings new challenges!) and so disappointing to close our doors to our critical keyworkers. We do, however, need to keep everyone as safe as we can and fingers crossed we can open our doors to our critical keyworker children at the end of next week and for everyone at Dodford as soon as it is safe to do so.

Can I take this opportunity to apologise that the planned assembly I spoke of in last week's letter did not happen. The unfolding events of this week, meant that I needed to be available by phone at all times so I was unable to find a slot to do this. Hopefully you have received the Star Pupil power point and can share this at home.

Due to the school being closed Monday to Thursday next week, we have the opportunity to try out some Teams meetings with the children. I have already sent you the Code of Conduct for such activities, please read this carefully and share this with your children before you join a meeting. Fingers crossed that our internet connections and technology doesn't fail us, if they don't, we hope that the teachers will say hello to the children each day and discuss the day's learning.

This can only happen whilst the teachers are not in school teaching. Moving forward though, to when our keyworker children are back in school, they will then hold one meeting a week, in the form of a 'hi and story time'. I will also be aiming to meet with each class next week too.

On Purple Mash, there is the ability for the children to send emails directly to their class teacher and their teacher can respond to the children. This can be to say hi or to ask questions about their work. Please can you tell your child though, to limit any messages to one per day maximum, otherwise my teachers will not be able to answer them all as well as giving the feedback on the work you are sending through and planning the next day's lessons and producing the accompanying resources!!

There is still a degree of angst among some of you about what you can achieve with your child at home. Each home will have its challenges, whether this be trying to work from home and support your child's home learning at the same time or not enough devices or getting your child to engage and so on. We do understand and want to support you in any way we can, so please contact your class teacher if you have any questions and remember what ever you can manage to do is going to be better than nothing. There is going to be a period of trial and error, finding ways which can work for you and your child.

Finally, just to let you know that the Oak National Academy and National Literacy Trust have teamed up to launch a Virtual School Library. You can read complete books online, so this may be another way of engaging your child in their reading.

Take care and keep safe,

Mrs Lisa Parkes
Headteacher