



## Pinfold Primary School Newsletter January 2021

'Learning is our passion'

'Small but mighty!'



Dear parents and carers,

A Happy New Year to you all- and what a start to the new year! Personally it feels like we have not had a minute to breathe since Sunday 3rd January, when it became apparent it was not going to be safe to open school.

It has been such a difficult, stressful, uncertain time. This has not been helped by the constant ice cold drizzle and grey stark skies. We are all feeling it. However this is not going to be a newsletter of doom and gloom!

I wanted to thank everyone for their support, resilience and patience. Thanks to you we have reduced the children in school from 73% to 38%. Staff are very grateful and hopefully this will help to keep all our community safe.

We have received our delivery of lateral flow tests from the government. This is voluntary but the intention is all staff and adults on site will be tested twice a week. This should put your mind at rest to know that the children who are coming in to a school are with Covid free adults.

It has taken time and patience to complete the training and set up as a registered testing school.



### Blended Learning, Home Schooling

As a parent myself I appreciate the logistical nightmare it is to try and split yourself in two (and more) to try and do your best to home school your children, complete your own job and keep up with the jobs at home- to say nothing of the stress and worry of making sure elderly or vulnerable relatives and family are safe and to some degree, happy.

We have put in place a strong offer for our children, both in home and in school. I have spoken to many other small school heads and hardly any of them are offering face to face teaching or meeting with a teacher. We thought this was vital, especially for the younger children as filling in lots of worksheets is not fun, nor will they learn much.

As a school, we are always striving to improve. We have put a questionnaire on the website. Please answer honestly (and kindly!) and we will take your comments on board.

We must just remember, we are all doing our best, it is a huge learning curve and our priority is to make sure we are all safe, happy and not becoming overwhelmed with it all.



## Online Safety

Thank you to the parents who were involved with our online safety discussion. Thanks for your patience when I could not work the break out rooms. Parents were pretty clued up about keeping their children safe when using the internet at home. There was less knowledge of County Lines, Prevent and Radicalisation.

This is where sometimes adults, sometimes teenagers, use the internet to groom our children for various ends. If we are making sure our children do not friend strangers online then this will protect them. It is only when children are playing live, or left alone online that strangers could access them. There have been real life incidents where children have been promised gifts, money, trainers or just praise in order to coax them to do the wrong thing, sell drugs, do dares- even suicide. There are various types from The Blue Whale challenge to County lines. It is important to keep up to date with what our children are being exposed to so we can prepare them with strategies to stay safe. The Prevent duty was set up in 2015 to make us aware that our children can be radicalised to following extreme religions or political persuasions. The Prevent duty gives guidance on how to keep children safe. We have a Prevent Risk Assessment. You can find it on our website. At the moment there is a rise in the risk of radicalisation from right wing racist groups.

The useful links we discussed are below:

Educate against hate- Prevent and radicalisation help:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

Police online safety:

<https://www.lancashire.police.uk/help-advice/online-safety/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre>

Lancashire Safeguarding help and advice:

<https://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/online-safeguarding/parents-and-carers/>



Please be aware that although the Government have said that we are closed and we have only a few children in school- we are actually running on a full staff and are following our curriculum plan for home and school learners. I still need to report to Governors and ensure we are up to date with the latest guidelines, Risk Assessments and policies. That means we are here and if you need anything please do not hesitate to ask. If you are feeling overwhelmed or would like to celebrate something good that happened please let us know. We still have access to Early Help and outside professionals so if you need any support at all I can point you in the right direction. I have added a few quotes that help to keep us going-hope they help you!

