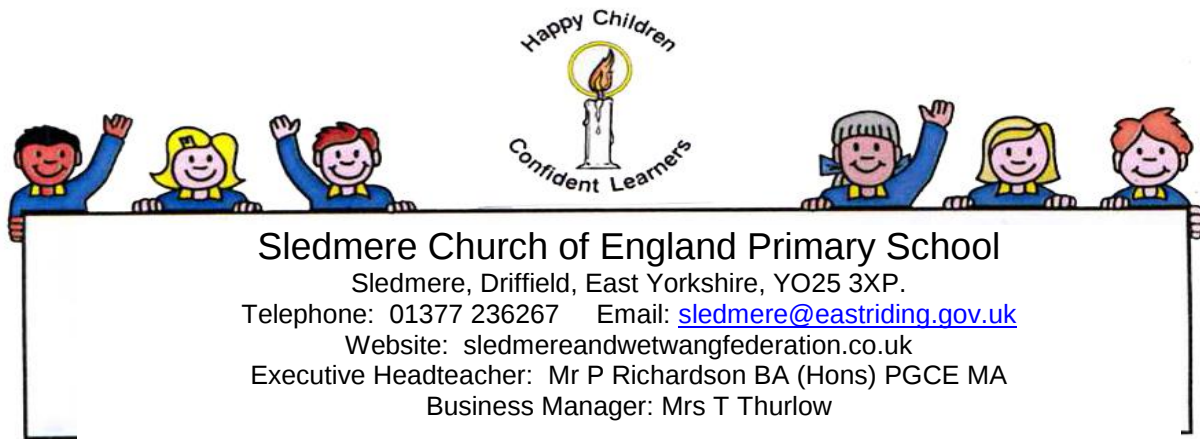




8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Update and thanks

I do hope you are all keeping safe during these difficult times. I'd like to thank everyone involved with our school community for their support and continued words of encouragement this week.

I'd also like to thank the members of the staff team for their tremendous efforts this week in re-inventing school with no advanced warning of the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening. They have put in place contingency plans, which we hoped we would never need, swiftly and with skill and determination to support **every** child whether they are in school or working remotely at home. We have learnt lots of lessons following the original lockdown in March; but I am sure you will appreciate the speed of this lockdown meant that we had **no** time to prepare. Indeed, whilst many other schools chose not to open on Tuesday, we took the bold decision to open to support every vulnerable child and child of a key worker.

Communication

We have a new platform to support our communication with you and to enable you to be able to access most information in one handy place. If you download the Schooljotter App on Android or IOS you then search for our school. We will be sending general News, Links and Notices via this platform. We will also continue to text you should we need to contact you.

Of course, you can also find information on our website.

Home Learning

https://www.sledmereandwetwangfederation.co.uk/urgent_january_lockdown.html

I'd like to offer my thanks to every one of you who is supporting your child, as well as you are able, at this time. I appreciate how difficult it is attempting to juggle work, family life and home learning. I want you to know that as a school we are here to help you.

Please also understand that our main approach is to try to maintain a link between those children who are in and those who are off. For that reason, we are working on similar things. Following the first lockdown, we also learnt that it is impossible for everyone to be able to work to a similar timetable. (There are too many factors that complicate things e.g. poor wifi and other pressures.)

Via Seesaw we are now able to communicate directly with your child, which we were unable to do easily in March. Many thanks for those children who are engaging with this platform to share with us their thoughts and to allow us to celebrate their successes with them. It is always lovely to see work your children have completed and to maintain that link. This is vital.

As educators and parents ourselves, we appreciate the challenges of working at home with children so if your child is struggling, if the technology is not working or if you simply need paper copies instead, please let us know. We are here for each other and we are adamant that your child's education continues to be our priority at all times.

Access to school

You may have read lots about the groups of children who are able to access school at present. Our aim last week was for every child to return as normal; however, the national lockdown has changed our plans and direction somewhat. In order to support the aim of the closure of schools I would urge you to consider whether your child needs to access the provision every day. DfE guidance states, *'The reason we are closing schools is not because they are unsafe but because additional measures are needed to contain the spread of the virus in the community. Doing that enables us to keep nurseries and childminders open, support parents and deliver the crucial care and education needed for our youngest children.'*

We will support our community and always endeavour to do our best. The DfE guidance also states parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Wraparound care

Following careful adjustment of our Risk Assessment for Sledmere School we have taken the decision to reduce After-School Club hours to 4.30pm during the period of the Lockdown. This will also reduce contact time for staff with pupils. I am aware that this may cause inconvenience to some of you who access this provision, but we have chosen not to cancel it full as some other schools have done at this time. I hope you appreciate that the decisions we make have to take in to account the needs of the whole school community. Breakfast Club provision remains available as usual.

Collective Worship

This crucial part of our school still continues on a daily basis. We have been undertaking joint Zoom Collective Worship since September twice a week and these have been a huge success thanks to the skill and creativity of Open the Book and Revd Jacki.

We are happy to invite you to join us on Tuesdays at 10.15am for Open the Book -

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75913260925?pwd=ZEVxaTZ1cHpnTlN2blhQZzILKzA3dz09>

and Wednesdays at 10.15am with Revd Jacki –

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73348944499?pwd=SkllL3N2VVp2OFRQZVNhYUlnWCtEZz09>

Certificate Assemblies

We are also holding weekly Zoom certificate assemblies for each class bubble. You will receive a link should you wish to join us. We'd love to see you there.

Future plans

We will keep you updated as soon as we are able should any aspect of school life change.

In the meantime, please take care and should you have any questions please get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Richardson

Peter Richardson
Executive Headteacher