



Mill Water School

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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following government guidance has proved challenging this week as there have been endless updates, purportedly to offer clarity but not necessarily giving any.

We are mindful of the challenges that everyone is facing and how hard this is for those of you at home with families. Please do get in touch if you need any support or think things can be done differently or better.

We need to carry on being kind to each other in order to get through this together. As always, we are very grateful for your support. I have received many messages of thanks to the team for what we're doing and it really means a lot that you take the time to message.

Staff have been out and about across Devon delivering, visiting and walking as we did in the last lockdown. I don't need to remind you that the weather is significantly different this time so please dress/send in the appropriate clothes for your child.

Steps we have taken to keep the building open and safe include ventilating as much as possible, so the building is cooler than usual. I am in at least a few layers each day and need to work in gloves by the late evening so please send in extra layers if you know your child is likely to feel the cold.

We are now a week into our lateral flow device testing as part of our risk reduction. We have a team of volunteers who have been trained using NHS webinars and were required to pass set modules to be able to test. This has been Quality Assured over the week and given high praise by a community children's nurse. Staff have described feeling an increase in confidence due to the testing.

Please note that in line with most SENTient schools we are not planning on testing pupils. You may be aware that primary schools are to be sent tests next week but this does not change my stance. Please contact me should you wish to discuss.

For those families who are entitled to Free School Meals, vouchers will be sent out to you next week. You will not receive vouchers for the days your child is in school.

There are lots of good news stories to tell from this week but two highlights have been Liam and Jessica. Both pupils working hard: one in school and one doing home learning.

Jessica sent in a recording of her reading her school reading book which was lovely to hear. A certificate will be sent out to her in the post.

Liam was safely using tools and following instructions in his work experience sessions. Well done to both.

Please have a safe and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

S A Pickering
Headteacher

