



OIA news

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Dear Parents and Carers,

That is 3 weeks done! Well done everyone! We cannot thank you enough for your support and dedication so far this term. You are all doing such an amazing job juggling work and online learning with the children. We know how challenging this is and you all deserve a medal.

Please remember you can only do so much, and you should not compare yourselves to others (I have to follow my own advice here). The most important thing right now is that you stay safe and well. We have a clear structure for our day and our teaching, and we hope this is helping everyone with continuity and consistency. We absolutely understand that this does not work for you all. Please do speak to us if things get too much and we will help you however we can. We are here to make this work for our whole community.

Thank you for all the emails of support and for voicing any worries. We are always striving for this to be the best it possibly can, so your feedback is really important to us. I understand one of the frustrations is being left in the waiting room on Teams. This is a tricky one; for safeguarding reasons we have to have this feature otherwise children can be in a meeting without a staff member. As soon as the teacher begins sharing their screen for teaching, it is then hard for them to see if someone has arrived late. I know not always possible, but if you can try to arrive in the waiting area a minute early, the teacher will be taking a register before letting everyone in on mass.

Another very useful bit of feedback we have had, is regarding when the assignments are being uploaded. We are keen for assignments that are linked to the lessons only to be completed once the lesson has been taught. This is why they are being posted throughout the day. We completely appreciate now, that for some of you working parents, it would be much easier if these were all available in the morning so you can get set up. From Monday this will be the case.

There has been a little confusion around illnesses this week in school and I think some mixed messages going home. For this I apologise. We have children catching the usual winter bugs, coughs and colds etc. These children are likely to be sent home if feeling unwell, but we will only ask for a child to have a COVID test if they have displayed one of the 3 symptoms stated by PHE: a new continuous cough, loss or change in smell or taste, or a high temperature. Children being sent home with one of these symptoms will not be able to return to school until they receive a negative test result or have completed 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms. A child with any other illness, can return when they are feeling better. We thank you for your understanding.

Wishing you all a restful weekend, fingers firmly crossed for snowman building on Sunday!

Sarah Armitage