

13th January 2021

## Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that children and parents/carers have settled into another lockdown routine, it is important to remind parents/carers of the necessity to engage with school as much as possible throughout each week. On the whole, parental engagement has been excellent but unfortunately, there have been a few families where engagement has not been happening.

School has a legal duty (as set out by the government) to safeguard all of our pupils and we work tirelessly to ensure our safeguarding procedures are in place and followed whilst most of our pupils are accessing home learning.

As part of our safeguarding measures, our Senior Leadership Team, teachers and our Pupil Support Team monitor the interaction and engagement of all of the children very closely.

In instances where children haven't been engaging with any of their online learning or teachers haven't had any communication from parents/carers in any given week, the Senior Leadership and Pupil Support Teams will be kept informed.

If by the end of school each Wednesday, contact with any of our families hasn't been successful then additional steps will have to be taken in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils – at this point, children would be regarded as 'missing' in education, which is a huge safeguarding concern. These steps include carrying out a doorstep visit to the family home (on a Thursday or Friday), as a follow up to check that family members are safe. Children who are still classed as 'missing' by the end of school on a Friday would warrant a referral into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), formerly known as Children's Social Care. This would then trigger an investigation by social services and possibly the Police to carry out further welfare checks.

In order to avoid such steps being taken by school, it is vitally important for all parents/carers to keep close contact with their children's class teachers in the first instance.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support during these strange and challenging times. If at any point, you do think you need additional assistance, please don't hesitate to contact school.

Best wishes,

Jo Sawyer

Headteacher

Headteacher

Bear academy

Bebor academy TRUST