



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you once again for your support and understanding as we work our way through this new challenge and as per usual ever changing guidance.

In the first lockdown in March 2020 we only needed one class bubble per year group, three in total, to accommodate 'critical worker' children and other children eligible for a place in school. It is hard to reconcile that in the current lockdown when reducing contacts to a minimum is even more critical due to the high number of cases and transmissibility of the new variant we find ourselves having to keep all nine class bubbles open.

Thank you to our 'critical workers' for responding to our questionnaire about which days you need your child to be at school. Only sending your child to school on these days will really help. You have been allocated a place on the days indicated in your response. If your child will not be attending on any of the allocated days, you should contact the school office before 9.30am.

Following an overwhelming demand for school places across the country, the DfE amended the guidance on critical workers slightly on Friday to say, '*Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college **if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***' We would like to emphasise that in no way do we wish any parent/carer who genuinely needs a place, in order to fulfil their critical role effectively, to feel that they should not send their child to school. We would however ask those families who are able to keep their child at home, because for example only one parent is working, to consider their need for a place. We are also aware that family situations vary widely and ask all parents/carers not to make assumptions about the circumstances of other families.

We hope you found the information about home learning that we sent out on Friday useful. The feedback received in relation to the home learning provided has been overwhelmingly positive. However, we are continually reviewing this and still have some improvements we would like to implement. Mrs Cutts has spent the morning on the phone providing support to families with technical issues. We hope these are now resolved. Do get in touch if not. **Attached with this letter is a guide to joining live sessions on Microsoft Teams.**

Whether your child is in school or learning at home, I have no doubt that you are finding the current situation challenging. Our thoughts are with you all. Home learning is not a competition. Please remember that everyone is doing their best and that each family will have different pressures. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you be in need of support or advice.

Kind regards

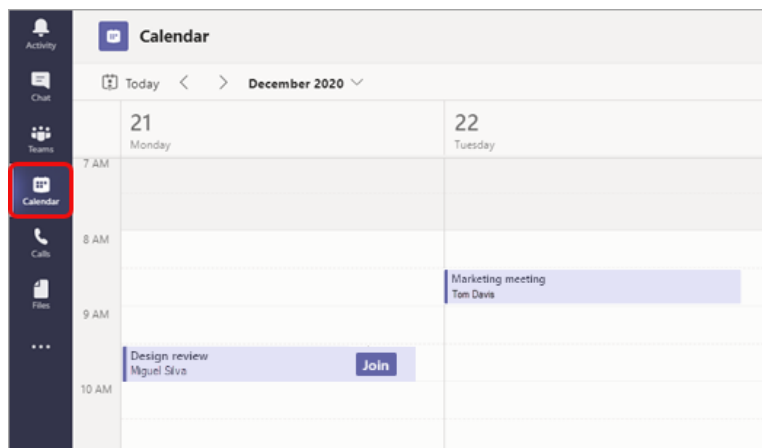
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Stevens', written in a cursive style.


Fiona Stevens

Head Teacher

## How to join a live session with the class teacher via Microsoft 365 Teams calendar

1. Use your child's username and password.
2. Login to Microsoft 365 to access **Teams** or open the **Teams** app.
3. Select **Calendar** on the left side of **Teams** to view sessions you have been

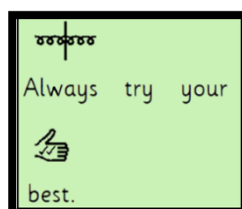


4. Find the session and select **Join**.
  - You are able to join once the class teacher has started the meeting.
  - You will be held in the lobby until someone admits you.
  - **Set your microphone to mute** and the class teacher will ask you to unmute when needed.
  - The class teacher may ask you to 'raise your hand' using the icon. Just select **Raise your hand**  in the session controls.



Remember that we follow the same rules in a TEAMS session as in school.

**Please share these with your child.**



It is important to keep safe whilst online; remind your child to ask an adult if they need help or if they see anything they are worried or unsure about.