Ottery Primary School Newsletter

8 January 2021

It has certainly been an 'interesting' week since the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening. These are uncertain and deeply worrying times for many people. The new variant of the virus poses significant public health risks and lockdown was imposed to reduce community contacts and transmission as much as possible.

We are truly grateful to all of our families for the support they have shown to the school during this time. You have been patient as we have tried to organise bubbles, groupings and remote learning. You have been understanding of the pressures and stresses on staff and you have all been supportive in terms of keeping children at home as far as possible, particularly key workers who are only sending children in when absolutely necessary. Home is the safest place for the children, their families and the school community so we are extremely grateful for your support with this.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of key worker and vulnerable places that are required in school, even since June, so the pressure on staff to deliver face to face learning and remote education is very apparent.

We are aware that some of our children felt disconnected from the school during the first lockdown last March and we are working hard to put in place more outreach opportunities from the school during the current restrictions.

In addition to the remote learning on the Google Classrooms we will be making regular phone contact with our families either via the class teacher or the SEND/Pastoral teams. We are also working on additional activity ideas and videos that will be uploaded to the Google Classrooms. Some of you may have already seen Mrs Finlay defeating me in a maths challenge or making a snowman with Mrs Bull.

Remote Education Provision

Details on our remote education provision can be found on our website by following this link.
The school website will be regularly updated with information and resources during lockdown. If you have any issues with accessing online resources, passwords and so on, please contact the school office for support.

Outdoor education

As a school we know the value of outdoor education. As screen time often increases during lockdown, we are eager to find ways to encourage our pupils to take part in outdoor learning too. We are excited to announce that Mrs Bull, our forest school lead, will be producing weekly 'grab bags' containing activities suitable for all ages based on her forest school expertise.

Each week we will include simple resources, instructions and a link to a video introducing the activity. We are asking for a suggested voluntary donation of 50p per bag to cover the cost of any resources. This will be payable via Scopay, and you will be able to do this online from Tuesday. Any funds raised above the cost of the bags will be donated to our local food bank. If this is something you would be interested in, please sign up via the following link. If you sign up, we will assume that you wish to participate in this every week unless and until we hear differently from you: https://forms.gle/SEyERRTdrFWGwwUz5

Milk, fruit and veg

Just a reminder that we have been informed that the Fruit for Schools scheme and Milk deliveries have been suspended during lockdown so please could we ask that you supply any fruit or vegetable snack for your child in school. Could we also reiterate that we have asked for oranges to no longer be sent into school due to identified allergies. Please bear this in mind when putting together lunch boxes as well.

Winter clothing

Please could we remind everyone that we are still prioritising outdoor PE in school so please sent your child in with suitable warm clothing for PE. We are also seeing a number of children arriving at school with no coat. The usual PE timetable will continue to run, so please can children wear their PE kit to school on their usual day, thank you.

Accessing the school site

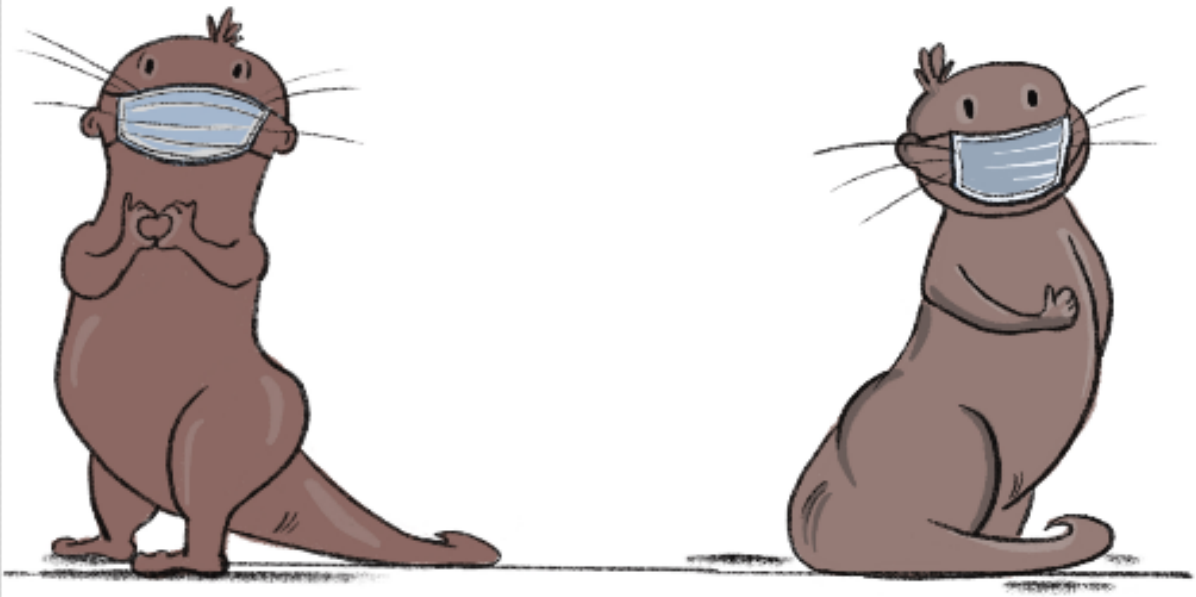
Thank you to everyone for following our requests when accessing the school site. We have produced posters to advertise these messages which are all aimed at keeping the school community as safe as possible.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mark Gilronan

KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE



WEAR A MASK

All adults are required to wear a mask on the school site

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Keep a 2 meter distance from other family groups

ONE WAY SYSTEM

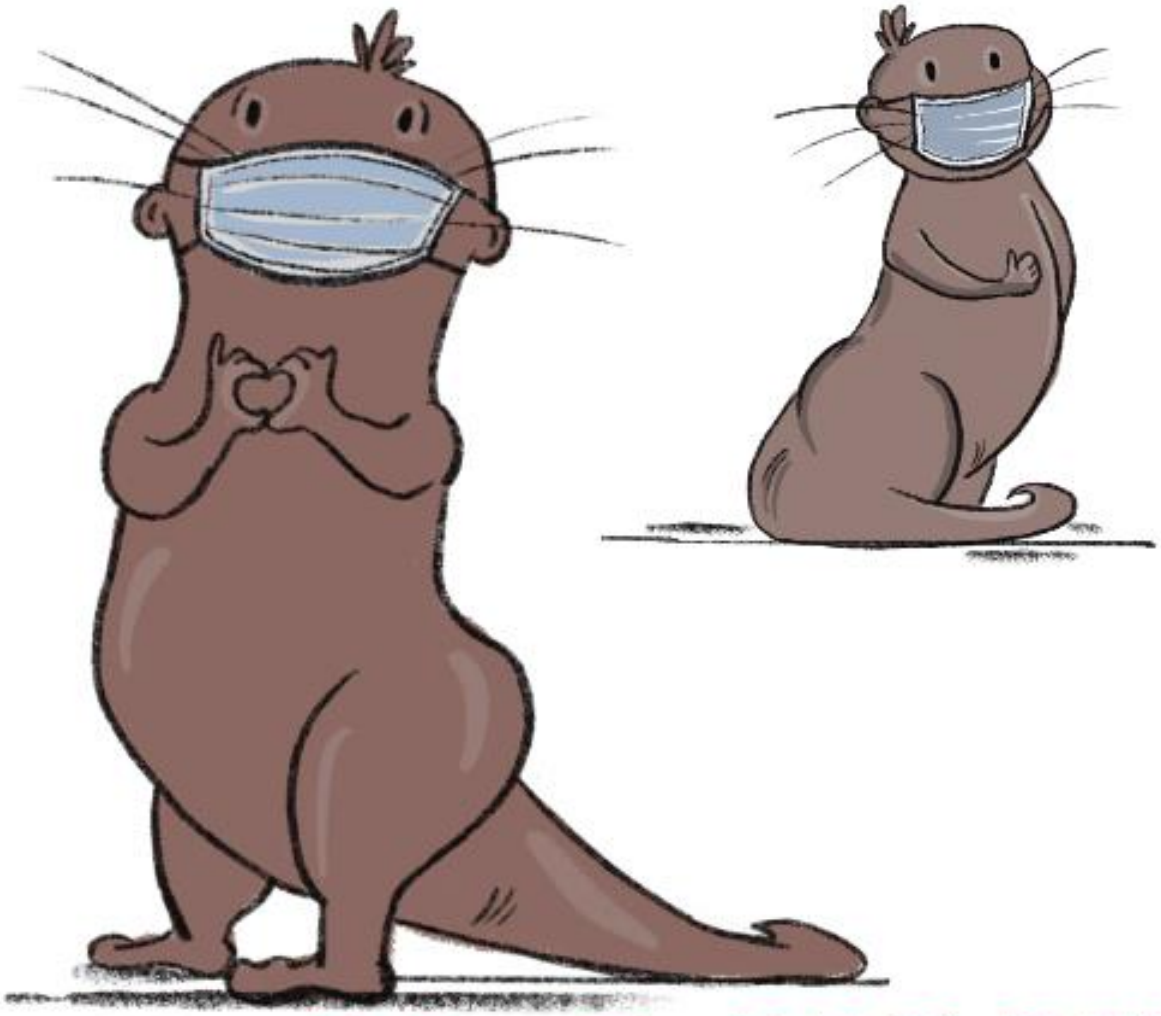
Follow the one way system around the school

ONE ADULT

Where possible, we ask only one adult per family group to drop off and collect

Thank you for supporting our school

KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE



WEAR A MASK

In addition to social distancing and our one way system, we now ask all adults on the school site to wear a mask.

Thank you for supporting our school