



## Parent Update 22<sup>nd</sup> January

News and information from school and the community to keep us in touch during lockdown.

Three weeks into the Spring Term and we have made lots of progress with remote learning – the phrase ‘*Every day’s a school day*’ has never felt more fitting! As I reported in the last update, I am so pleased – and proud – of how staff and children have taken to the remote learning so quickly. I am surprised every day at the work that is being done and the number of children who are really trying hard and doing their best to make the situation we find ourselves in not interfere with their learning. Well done!



It would be wrong of me to say though that everything is going smoothly – of course it isn’t! I think today (Friday!) has probably been one of the most difficult days – not just at school, but at home as well. I have probably spoken to more parents on the telephone today than I have altogether since we returned to school! I think we have probably just reached a pinch-point and everyone is feeling frustrated or tired or inadequate or even just plain fed-up with everything that is going on!

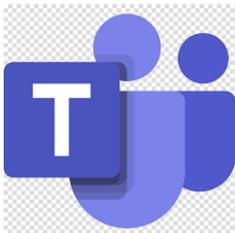
I do want to reassure everyone that the support you are giving to your children is amazing! And if you are ‘wobbling’ - you are not alone. It’s certainly not the case that everyone else is coping brilliantly and it’s just you that isn’t.

Home-learning just won’t work perfectly everyday. Some days will be brilliant, and other days will just seem like you are fighting a losing battle. The vast majority of you aren’t teachers, many of you are juggling working at home – or elsewhere, trying to timetable brothers and sisters in different year groups accessing different live lessons and check-ins and storytimes....and at times I am sure you will feel overwhelmed. Please give yourselves credit for doing what you can....we don’t ask for anymore. And please just ask for help and advice when you need it – no questions are daft questions – and staff are on hand during the school day to provide support and reassurance. Just contact teachers through your class email address. All year groups are in the same format – [y1cleves@cclt.education](mailto:y1cleves@cclt.education), or y2, y3 etc. Nursery is [nurcleves@cclt.education](mailto:nurcleves@cclt.education) and Reception class is [reccleves@cclt.education](mailto:reccleves@cclt.education) Please contact us with questions, feedback, worries or even just to share some funny anecdotes and experiences of home learning.



### Teams Training

Thank you to those parents who have responded to the offer of a Teams training session from Miss Robinson. There are enough parents interested in taking part and the offer is still open to more. Miss Robinson will run through the key aspects of Teams that will help you to support your child’s home-learning and also offer a question and answer session. We cannot guarantee to have all of the answers, but if we don’t know – we can find out! The session will run this week (date and time to be confirmed asap) and invites will be sent to everyone who has put their names forward so far. If you do want to join in and haven’t put your names forward, please just email your class teacher to put yourself on the list. The session will also be recorded to share.



### Data/Internet

Don’t forget, there is still help available for internet/data boosts if you are struggling at home. If you have a child in KS2 and are entitled to free school meals, we can apply to the government for a wireless internet booster that could help with access issues. There is also help available with data allowances/free access from many of the mobile phone providers. If you meet the criteria and feel this would be helpful to you, please contact school.





## **Assemblies**

Have you joined one of our Assemblies yet? It is lovely to be able to share with you our weekly celebration assembly – 2.45pm on a Friday afternoon. We have done 2 so far and at each one we've had over 170 people joining! They are being recorded and uploaded to our website too so that you can revisit and share them

later. There are also my Monday Assemblies – not as exciting of course – but a nice way to keep some school traditions going where we can. They are uploaded to our Facebook page – and will be on the website too asap.

<https://www.clevescrossprimary.org.uk/first-assembly-2021/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Cleves-Cross-Primary-and-Nursery-School-113446616998921>



Social media – don't forget to link in to our Twitter feed too, to see lots of the work the children are doing and to share activities with you too.

[https://twitter.com/ClevesCross?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddettimeline%7Ctwterm%5Eprofile%3AClevesCross&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.clevescrossprimary.org.uk%2F](https://twitter.com/ClevesCross?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddettimeline%7Ctwterm%5Eprofile%3AClevesCross&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.clevescrossprimary.org.uk%2F)

## **Useful links to support you through lockdown**

There is no doubt that everyone of us is affected somehow by the current national lockdown. Whether it is financially, emotionally or physically, it is important that we are all aware of where we can get help, and more importantly, that we access what we need, when we need it, and help and support each other as much as we can. I have included here some links that give lots of advice and guidance on what is available to us and how to get in touch. I hope that you find these useful.

- Energy Advice Programme – need help with energy costs?

<https://www.clevescrossprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EAP-poster.pdf>

- County Durham Families Information Service

<http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/organisation.page?id=AtV4-BGX7jE&>

- Mental health and Emotional Support

[https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/durham/fsd/files/acrobat\\_documentchild.pdf](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/durham/fsd/files/acrobat_documentchild.pdf)

- Durham County Council Covid-19 support

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/>

- Free Employment Support Service

<https://www.reachingoutacrossdurham.co.uk/contact-us/>

- Foodbank Information

<http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/organisation.page?id=liluvYFkFOg>