

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you and your families all remain safe and well at the start of this new term as we begin to navigate our way into 2021.

I just wanted to start with a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the Slade community who has been in touch to offer help, to provide positive feedback, to supply random acts of kindness and for being absolute superstars this week. Your loyalty and support at this time truly does mean so much to all of the staff team and really is very much appreciated; thank you everyone.

Following on from that, I want to say a huge thank you to the many who, either individually or collectively, have responded so very quickly to our appeal earlier this week requesting support with the provision of laptops for some of our pupils. We have been overwhelmed by your response to this plea and the generosity that has been shown. Thank you too for the thoughts and ideas that you have shared, signposting us to alternative sources of technology; thank you to each and every one of you. I'm delighted to report that your collective response has now enabled us to order 21 of the required laptops which will be ready for distribution at the start of next week. We will be in touch with families awaiting a laptop with further information; thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding with us during this process.

Well done and thank you to each of you for supporting your child with their home learning this week. It has been lovely to see and hear so many of the children during their virtual registrations each morning! Do look out for myself and Miss Garrett as we pop into bubbles during this time to say good morning to the children! Well done and thank you also to the children who have been coming into school this week for being so keen and enthusiastic about their learning! Huge special thanks too to the fabulous team of staff who have been in school doing a sterling job in enabling us to remain open to these groups of children.

You may be aware from local news that Kent County Council has launched a symptom-free testing scheme for families across the County from 4 January 2021. The test uses a lateral flow device and can detect in 30 minutes whether an individual has the COVID-19 virus. This test is available to anyone who lives or works in Kent and who does not display any symptoms. Further information including test centre locations and details on how to book a test can be found by following this link: <https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

In addition, the latest DfE guidance for parents and parents can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Finally, in an attempt to keep us all connected we will be producing our usual weekly newsletter commencing next Friday; an opportunity for you to find out more of what has been happening across the school, both in the building and remotely.

Have a restful weekend all, away from your laptops.

Take care, stay safe and be kind x

Karen Slade, Headteacher

