



News from Cumnor School

Spring Term Number 4

29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Return to school update

I am sure you would have been following the news this week and picked up on the statement regarding school closures, but those of you who have not seen it yet, I wanted to make sure everyone was up to date: The key announcements are:

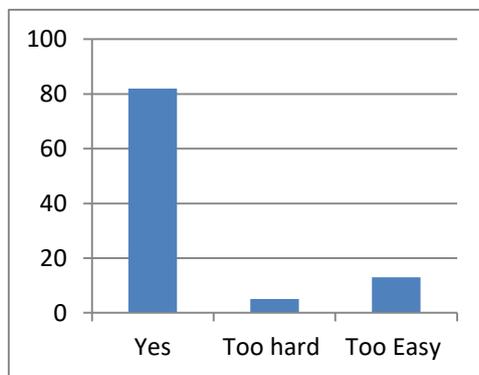
- The earliest schools might begin to reopen will be Monday 8th March.
- There will be a review of the current situation on Monday 22nd February
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two week's notice of this.

This means that we will keep on with the remote learning for two weeks before half term and the two weeks after half term. The review immediately after the half break will guide us as to whether we need to continue this any longer. I know this will be disappointing news for many families and children but hopefully it indicates the beginning of children getting back to school.

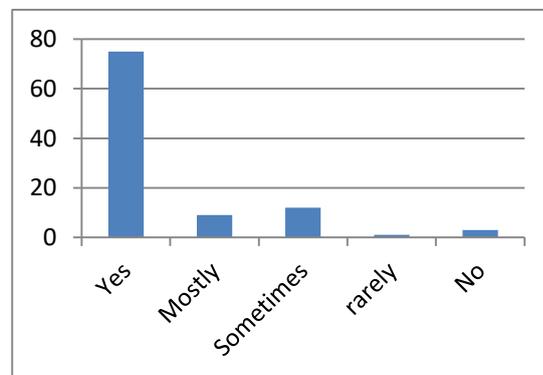
Parent survey

Thank you for returning your parent survey earlier this week. We had a good response and many positive comments. In summary the results showed:

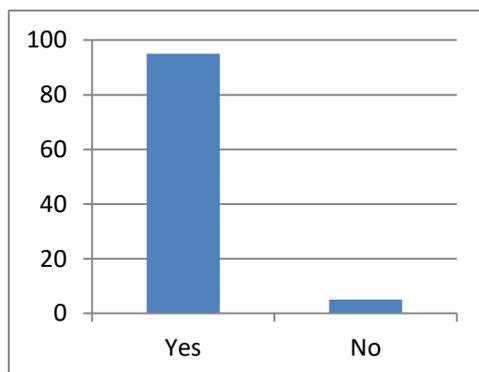
Are the 5 daily tasks appropriate?



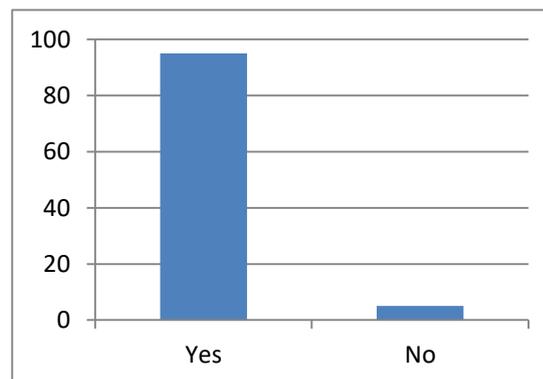
Are the written comments useful?



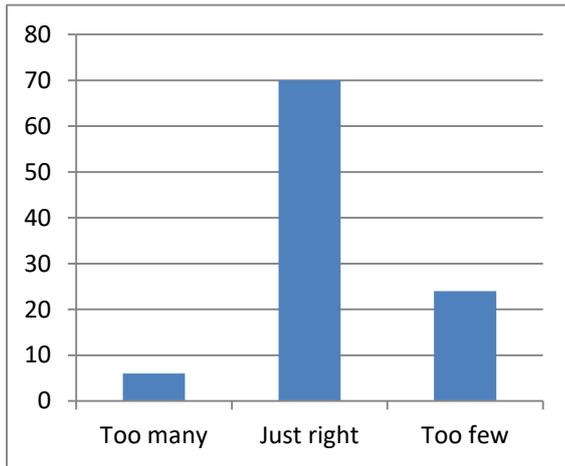
Are the live lessons useful?



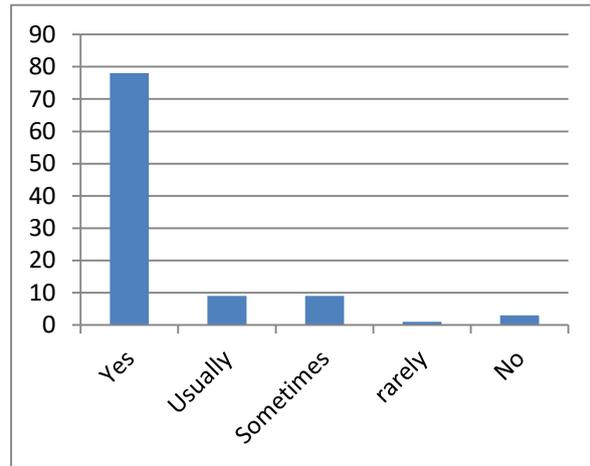
Is the length of the live lesson suitable for your child?



Regarding the number of live lessons during the day?



Is the plenary session at the end of the day useful?



Most parents also made useful comments and we have reviewed all of these. Clearly we cannot 'please all the people all the time', especially given everyone's individual and unique circumstances, but it seems that the majority of parents are reasonably happy with the approach we are currently taking. Reading through the comments, most parents recognised the stressful and full on job our staff are currently doing: setting the work in the morning, answering emails from parents, staff and other professionals, preparing and delivering live lessons, responding to work submitted online, running intervention groups for specific children or groups of children, preparing and delivering the plenary sessions, preparing the next day's work and responding to all sorts of additional requests from me as well as dealing with the challenges of home working that I know you face too! Thank you for your messages of encouragement and support. The main area of concern was about children's well-being, their ability to interact with each other and staff, combined with keeping online learning stimulating for them.

Considering the fact that we will be carrying on with remote learning for at least another 4 weeks and the concerns some parents are having around keeping their children focussed and stimulated, we will be looking at ways of supporting you as best we can. Any changes we make will be introduced in individual classes over the next week. We are also planning a variety of one off themed days and collaborative activities to give the children something specific to look forward to each week, starting with our Science Day on Thursday next week.

Science Day

Mrs Pottle has been busy organising what promises to be the most amazing Science Day for next Thursday. There are lots of different activities planned; your children may be finding out about how space rockets are made, creating their own shuttle, making puppet rockets, learning how to live in space or creating their own gravity ark work. I'm sure it will be a fabulous day. Teachers will let you know in advance if there are any specific resources that would be handy to have around and if you can send in photos of their work afterwards we can include them in a gallery on the school website.



Live work outs and Drama with Gary Lewin from Stepping Stone Performing Arts



We are delighted that Gary Lewin, who runs the Stepping Stone Performing Arts Studio in Oxford <https://ssperformingarts.co.uk> has kindly offered to run live sessions with each of our classes on Tuesdays between now and the end of lockdown. The sessions, focusing on drama, fitness and theatre, will run on a Tuesday and replace the physical activity the

teacher sets for the day. We are really grateful to Gary and I'm sure his live sessions will add a special something to our Tuesday work day.

Primary School Health Team Newsletter

Please also see attached a newsletter from the primary school health team for your information.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Read". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Ed Read
Headteacher