 **Head Teacher – Mrs Helen Gregory**

 Amberley Way, Eaglescliffe

 Stockton on Tees

 TS16 0NG

Tel: 01642 780742

 Email: durhamlane@sbcschools.org.uk

Website: www.durhamlane.org.uk



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance during the National Lockdown - January 2021

As you are aware, the advice from the Government is to **stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives**. I can confirm that we have currently have 42% of our school population attending Durham Lane Primary, with 58 % of the population receiving remote education. We are appealing to families that, if your circumstances change, please keep us informed; this will help to reduce the number of children attending school.

Feedback from parents with regards to our ‘Remote Learning Package’ has been extremely positive with all children from Year 1 – Year 6 attending daily ‘Zoom’ lessons and completing the learning via the Seesaw learning platform. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team at Durham Lane for their sheer determination and enthusiasm towards taking on this tremendously difficult challenge.

School attendance, whether is it remotely or in school, is statutory. I will complete daily register checks to ensure all children are accessing education either remotely or in school. Could I please ask parents to follow the same attendance procedures as they would if the child were to attend school. If your child is unwell and are being taught remotely, could you please inform the school office that they are too unwell to complete their learning. Also, could you please inform us if anyone in your household is waiting for a Covid-19 test or has tested positive. As a school, we are asked by the DfE for numbers of suspected cases and positive cases of Covid-19 in our school community.

Please may I take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who are currently doing an incredible job helping with the education of our children. Some parents are having to juggle working from home and helping with home-learning (often with more than one child) and, as a school we really appreciate your efforts towards reducing transmission, keeping children and staff safe and, of course, protecting the already over-loaded NHS. I appreciate that not all parents are able to do this, but for those that are managing, our heartfelt thanks goes out to you.

Finally, I would just like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank all of the children at Durham Lane, both in school and at home, for being so resilient and adapting to change so quickly. We really do have incredible children here at Durham Lane, who are an asset to you all; I am so very proud of them.

For now, please stay safe during these most difficult of times and we look forward to all being together very soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Helen Gregory