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Blended learning information

Dear Parents/Carers,

Much to our disappointment, we have found ourselves having to close our school again due to the pandemic and jump into whole school remote learning with very short notice. Thank you for your support so far with this immediate adjustment. We appreciate that it is very difficult to juggle home learning with working from home in many instances. We have had to implement a 2 key worker criteria as we would have had over 80% of pupils in school – as I am sure you can understand; this is not the intention of the government under the ‘stay at home’ ruling we find ourselves.

Further to the Remote Learning Information document for parents, which you can find attached to this email and on the schools: ‘Blended Learning from September 2020’ page, here is some further information about remote learning from January 2021. It is an expectation that every child will be following the home learning that is being delivered for your child. The remote learning we are providing, matches that being delivered to the children in school as closely as possible.

Remote education provided by DPA

All staff in school have been working hard to make effective plans so your child’s learning and progress can continue. Therefore, this week the remote learning set has been our short notice contingency plan, these have included an English/Phonics (depending on age), Maths and Topic lesson with some use of external teaching resources. From Monday 11th January (week 2 of remote learning), the amount of lessons will be increased and will explore a wider variety of subjects and will still include some use of external teaching resources. By Week 3, lessons will largely be pre-recorded lessons by your child’s year group teachers with external teaching resources available to supplement learning, this will allow tailored and specific teaching for your child that will follow the usual planned curriculum.

There have been some requests about live lessons, as it stands we are unable to commit to providing live lessons due to the fact many households will not have enough technology for this to be possible. We are instead providing pre-recorded video lessons to allow pupils to access lessons when their technology is available to them.

Google Meet Sessions for pupils

Beginning on Monday 11th January (week 2 of remote learning), live Google Meet sessions will take place daily at a set time for your child to say hello to their teachers and peers, this is only a quick 5 minute slot so please make sure you join on time. This may be increased over time. The Google Meet sessions are for each class not each year group so please make



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sure you join the right class. Your child's class time will be communicated to you through Google Classroom announcements and will be the same time every day. Some year groups are also holding additional live sessions – check the timetable on Google Classroom so that your child does not miss out. Most children are very familiar with Google Classroom as we have used this a lot during the autumn term in order to prepare for what we hoped would not happen, but what we now find ourselves doing.

Parent Q&A sessions

Weekly parent question and answer slots will also begin in week 2, this again is a live Google Meet time slot for you to ask your child's teacher any questions regarding remote learning. To keep things simple, we are asking you to log in with your child's Google Classroom log in and join the Google Meet Link that will be communicated through Google Classroom announcements. This will be for the whole year group (not by class) and will be the same day and time each week.

Technology and resources

There have been some queries regarding borrowing technology supplied by the government. Unfortunately, we have been provided with very few devices and we are restricted on who can receive these and pupils that are eligible for pupil premium will be prioritised. The government have also informed us that we may only lend technology to children in years 3 and above. We have been informed that we will be able to order more, but not yet. Where we are able to offer technology, this is limited to one per family. We also have a very limited number of data sim cards. If you are struggling for data and you are eligible for pupil premium, please get in touch. This will enable you to create a Wi-Fi hotspot.

We understand that limiting technology can cause some juggling within the family and we do sympathise with this. Please remember that video lessons can be viewed on any device not just laptops (tablets, phones etc.), your child can view this video and then complete work on paper, this hand written work can then be photographed and uploaded to Google Classroom. If requested, teachers can provide paper packs of work if absolutely necessary. We can also provide paper, pencils etc. upon request. Google Classroom can also be accessed through an Xbox or PlayStation. On the Xbox this will need to be accessed through Microsoft Edge, and on the PlayStation it is the 'www' browser. Once the browser has been opened:

1. Type in classroom.google.com in the URL bar.
2. A prompt for a Google Account will appear.
3. Type in your school google email and password
4. The classroom home screen should open up!



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If children have a key board they can plug in this will make navigation easier. Otherwise, they will need to use their controllers to click on classroom tiles, open up assignments and type.

As we all struggle with ways to meet the needs of our learners, I thought it would be valuable to know that there are multiple options for children as they access the content prepared.

Daily work submissions

A daily 3pm deadline for submitting work is set to ensure teachers are able to mark all children's English and Maths work for the next day which contributes to effective learning and progress. If work is not submitted by this time, work will not be marked ready for the next day. It is vitally important that work is submitted daily (even if it is after 3pm). It is an expectation that children are learning daily just like they would be at school, uploading work that has already been completed to Google Classroom should be a short and quick process.

Staff contact

Engagement with Google classroom assignments and Google Meets will be tracked by school staff. Staff will be in touch with families who are not completing the work to provide support in order for children to progress. Some families will also be contacted to be offered additional interventions delivered by our HLTA's and TA's to support identified pupils.

Once again, many thanks for you continued support during these times. We will look forward to opening our doors as soon as it is safe. If you have any further questions or queries, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely