

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

There have been a few emails following the remote learning information that was sent out this morning and I wanted to clarify the school's position and offer some advice. This is a very difficult situation in which we all find ourselves and, as a school, we are trying to do all that we can to support you within the limitations of a national lockdown.

The government has set out high standards for remote learning for all schools which we are statutorily obliged to provide. We have tried to offer beyond the minimum required to match what we usually offer in school.

Government Expectations for Remote learning:  
When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to:

- Set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects
- Provide teaching that is equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. This will include both recorded or live direct teaching time and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently, and will be a minimum of:
  - Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort with less for younger children.
  - Key Stage 2: four hours a day

Online video lessons do not necessarily have to be recorded by teaching staff at the school. Oak National Academy lessons, for example, can be provided in lieu of school led video content.

- We have set a deadline of 3pm for work to be submitted daily to allow teachers reasonable time after this to provide feedback to your child. If it is not possible to submit work by this time, you are welcome to submit it later but please be aware that this may not be looked at until at least the following day.
- All of our work is accessed through Google Classroom. This can be accessed through a wide range of devices: phone (download the app), Xbox, PlayStation, Switch, chrome book, laptop, iPad, tablet, smart TV
- Maths: it is really important that your child watches the accompanying video before completing the worksheets. This will help them to understand the work that follows. You do not have to print off the PowerPoints. The vast majority of children in Year 4 upwards (and some Year 2-3 children) should be able to access the learning mostly independently. The videos provide all the explanations and can be paused and restarted to aid clarity and understanding. This is also the same for other subjects.



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Younger children may need some support to access Google Classroom but should be able to watch the video independently.

- The government have stated that pupils in primary school (Years 1-6) have to have a minimum of 3 hours work set for them. Our offer exceeds this, particularly for the older year groups, in order to provide children with the equivalent of a school day. If this is not possible or achievable, please make sure that your child concentrates on the English and Maths on Google Classroom and submits work for these subjects as the absolute minimum. Unlike the first lockdown, the learning covers new subject areas as they would have had in school.
- We are not providing live lessons due to issues with sharing technology and pressures on timetables. The recorded lessons (the majority of which are filmed by school staff) allow pupils to watch parts over again in order to help reinforce the learning.
- We are providing at least daily opportunities for your child to link with the other children in the class and, where possible, with the rest of their class in school. This is in response to feedback from the first lockdown. Children can discuss their learning so far and have an overview of the learning expected as well as talking with their friends. The timing for these Google Meets is the same every day (different for every class) and only last around 10 minutes. If it is at all possible for your child to join these sessions, please do help to facilitate this.
- We will also be holding a weekly question and answer session for parents via Google meet. You will need to log on using your child's account.

I hope this helps to reduce some anxieties about the expectations about home learning and give you an idea of the standards that schools are now expected to reach. The staff at our school have worked extremely hard to ensure that every standard is being met and, in most cases, exceeded, in order to provide the very best standard of education for your children. Please do what you can at home using the resources that we have provided for you. Please also get in touch with the school for support so that we can see if there is something that we can help you with by emailing or phoning the school office.

Yours faithfully

Alison Ashcroft