



6th January 2020

School Update – Those remote learning from home

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience whilst we diverted our attentions this week from Monday's finalisation of plans for the return of all pupils this week, to Tuesday's planning to preparing rotas and procedures for key worker and vulnerable pupils returning today, together with remote learning for those working from home. Thank you for the many positive and encouraging messages from many of you who sympathised with the enormity of the task!

Last term we prepared instant packs that could go live at any time should if for example a class or year group bubble had to self-isolate and work from home and so we were ready to move quickly this week. We also had our Seesaw learning platform, which we had in place during the last Lockdown and that we sometimes use for homework ready for children to upload work and have it marked. We also had staff training last term in how to put together video-presentations and we began to use our Google platform internally for meetings.

Whereas in the last Lockdown the curriculum had been in effect suspended and there was a much more flexible approach to Home Learning, the expectation for this time is very different. By next week your children will have been given a clear timetable of the day in terms of expectation of what they should be doing over the school day. We do understand if modifications need to be made for children sharing devices or if family members become ill or other factors. Children will be able to upload their work and receive feedback via Seesaw and we will be beginning to use Google Meet as a way of meeting either as a whole class group or, particularly for younger children, in smaller groups.

Although we have used the system in school, there may be teething difficulties to begin with because we haven't had experience of using it with those on the 'outside' yet! So please bear with us while we experiment! Hopefully it will add a greater interactive element to the week, but we are very much 'dipping our toes in' here. We are excited to see how it will work. Initially it will be used to introduce and close the week, but it will be interesting to see how it works and really get a feel for its potential. There is a protocol for the Meets to ensure that they work safely at the end of this letter. Please make sure that you read it.

A few parents are requesting full live learning all day, each day. However, the leadership team have done a lot of research and attended a series of webinars regarding remote learning and research from the first Lockdown and has since shown that:

- Teaching quality is more important than how lessons are delivered
- Ensuring access to technology is key, especially for disadvantaged pupils
- Peer interactions can provide motivation and improve learning outcomes
- Supporting pupils to work independently can improve learning outcomes
- Different approaches to remote learning suit different types of content and pupils

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/best-evidence-on-supporting-students-to-learn-remotely/>

Research suggests that live lessons are not the most successful way for children to learn, whereas filmed modelling and planned sequential learning can be accessed by parents at a convenient time for them, especially when there is more than one child in a family, as well as providing the opportunity for this to be replayed.

This is something that is explored in the following article:

<https://www.tes.com/news/4-reasons-pre-recorded-lessons-are-your-best-option>

All of this does not underestimate my feelings about the huge challenges you face as parents in having to educate your children from home. Many of our staff have the same challenges with working and supporting their own children. It is important that we work together over the difficult weeks ahead in a mutually supportive way in order to make the best of an incredibly difficult situation for us all.

To help with this our Year Group email addresses (used in the last Lockdown) will go live tomorrow where you can ask questions. Please note that your individual class teacher might be in school working with children and therefore your query may be answered by another member of the year group team. These will be overseen during school hours only. Please be polite in such communications - they are for clarification and questions not criticism or for questioning school policy. For any real concerns you can write to the school office and these will be addressed by the year group leaders, phase leaders, Miss Palmer or myself as appropriate.

If you need support with devices then please let your year group team know. We do have a small number that can be used.

We look forward to working with you over the weeks ahead.

Best wishes for the new term.

Mr Farrugia
Headteacher

(Google Meet Protocol on next page)

Online Home Learning Guidelines for Parents and Carers via Google Meet

- The Meet details will be put on the class Blog/Seesaw. The children will need to access the lesson from a parent/carer's or own school Google account.
- The parent or carer must make sure their child and other members of the household are aware the video call is happening.
- Staff, children and other members of the household who may be in the same room as the child must wear suitable clothing.
- Devices used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms and where possible be against a neutral background.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- The same expectations apply for remote teaching and conversations as normal school conduct.
- A parent/carer will need to appear on screen at the start of the lesson to confirm they give consent for their child to be part of the lesson.
- Wherever possible 'live' classes will be recorded and stored on google drive so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed. They will be deleted after 2 weeks. Parents and children will be asked to confirm they are aware of this and give consent at the start of each session.
- The children and parents/carers are not permitted to take pictures/record lessons.
- If the teacher has any concerns about children (or other members of the household) using unsuitable language, dress, location, the lesson will be ended and concerns will be recorded and passed to the head teacher or deputy head.
- Live classes will be kept to a reasonable length of time and will take place only at a point during the school day.