

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Home Learning – Round 2!

We have received some guidance (although quite limited at this point) with regard to expectations around home learning for this second full lockdown.

From a school point of view, we are expected to:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum:
 - primary: 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort
 - secondary: 4 hours a day, with more for pupils working towards formal qualifications this year
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding

We want to minimise the impact of further absence from school on learning for the next 6 weeks and, therefore, are working to ensure that pupils get as close to the normal learning opportunities at home as we are able to facilitate. It is important that we do whatever we can to support parents and carers to ensure that they can access the learning opportunities provided and in turn support their child/ren to continue to learn from home. It is also important that the children understand that they are working from home and we will expect the same standards of work that they would be working at in school. I completely understand that this will be no mean feat and am already sympathising with many of you! However, we will do all we can to support you to facilitate the learning at home.

Details of home learning will be sent the evening before. From Reception to Year 2, this will be posted on Tapestry and for children in years 3-6 the work will be sent via email. At times we may invite your child to attend a Zoom meeting with their teacher/TA and a group of other children – depending on their learning needs. To give your permission for this you will need to log into the meeting and show your presence to the staff member. We will always have another member of staff present when this happens. We will also be producing some videos to support with the learning and directing you to other websites to access support. We expect to see evidence of your child's learning on a regular basis so that we can assess impact and progress and if we haven't heard from them for a couple of days we will contact you to see what the problems are and to offer help.

We have put together some packs to support the learning at home and, attached, is a rota of when these can be collected tomorrow (6/01/21). The rota is in alphabetical order by surname so that families can collect multiple children's packs at the same time. Please stick to the times so that we do not have too many people arriving at the same time.

Please make sure that you are able to access Tapestry (Reception – Year 2) or have provided the class teacher with the most up to date email so that you are able to receive the learning tasks. Please email any concerns or queries to the class teacher who sent the learning out and they will get back to you as soon as they possibly can.

Some children may be allocated some extra contact from teaching assistants to support with their learning. We will let you know if your child has been identified as someone who may benefit from this.

Registration

Pupils in Year 1 to 6 will be required to register with the class teacher each morning via Zoom. This helps us to maintain accurate registers, identify who is ready to learn (which will be followed up by a phone call to identify any problems) and help us to set the scene and greet the pupils each day. The Zoom link will be sent on the email/Tapestry message with the home learning on the evening before.

Please make sure that your Zoom username is either your child's first name or surname. Without this, children will not be admitted into the register from the 'waiting room'.

Pupils (with parents accessing Zoom and acknowledging the teacher to give consent) will need to log on at the following times:

Year 1 and 2 – 8:30 am (waiting room opens at 8:25am and register will be taken between 8:30 and 8:40 am)

Year 3 and 4 – 8:45 am (waiting room opens at 8:40 am and register will be taken between 8:45 am and 8:55 am)

Year 5 and 6 – 9:00 am (waiting room opens at 8:55 am and register will be taken between 9:00 am and 9:10 am)

If your child is unwell and is unable to participate in the home learning that day, please call the school answering machine and leave a message. This is for our records. If we do not hear from you and a child is unable to participate in the register, we will contact you. If you have technical difficulties getting into the meeting – please send an email to the teacher.

As always, do the best you can and let us know when you are struggling. Please bear with us, if something doesn't work we may need to 'tweak' it. We will stay in contact as much as possible so we can communicate any changes/news.

Tonight, you will receive information about the learning for tomorrow with the Zoom link for registration. This week, the work may be slightly different to next week when we hope to be in full flow! We want to make sure that we iron out any access and technology issues this week so that no child misses out. Please contact us if you are having problems of any kind.

We look forward to seeing your child's home learning over the next few weeks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Woakes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane Woakes
Headteacher