

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing to you with information regarding remote and 'in school' learning during the Spring Term National Lockdown 2021. Apologies for the length of the letter but it contains important information so please do take time to read it carefully.

As a staff, we have worked incredibly hard in a very short space of time to get the very best remote and 'in school' learning offer ready for you all. Although the time given to implement a 'school closure' was less than 12 hours, we have of course been braced for remote learning since September. Our offer is in line with government guidelines which state that they expect schools 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*
- *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*

Although our preparations have been ongoing and hearty, we are experiencing some teething problems as we begin our lockdown learning. Thank you for your patience during this period. We are very happy to receive constructive feedback but equally welcome your understanding as we try to iron out any technical and logistical issues.

Please do not panic if your remote learning is not going as smoothly as you hoped it would. It is fair to say that we are all on a learning journey! As always, well-being for us all is vital. If you have completed some, but not all, of the learning set then that is an achievement in itself. We will make contact with you through teams, email or phone but please do feel free to contact us at school too.

We will shortly be sending out an acceptable use agreement for Teams that will provide the children with clear guidelines as to what is expect behaviour whilst on line. This is to keep themselves, and everyone else, safe.



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Headteacher Miss S Vittle

As stated in our remote learning offer, we will be using Tapestry and Teams to communicate learning and feedback to you and your children. It is essential that you can log into your Teams (all years) and/or Tapestry (YrR&1) account. This is where your child's class teacher will post and respond to learning. It is also where live lessons and well-being sessions will take place. If you are having trouble accessing these accounts, then please do contact the school office. Please also visit our website where we have uploaded a 'How to use TEAMS' video on the front page of the 'Classes' tab. Please have a look if you are having trouble logging in or navigating around TEAMS. We have also discovered that if you are using a phone or a tablet then documents don't always open very well. For this reason we will also upload any documents in a PDF format which should open in a much more readable format. Work does not need to be completed electronically, it can be handwritten and submitted by photo or by simply telling your class teacher it has been completed.

Your child's class teacher will have made contact with you with a proposed timetable of learning for your child. This is a guide for you to use to aid your home learning schedule over the coming weeks. There will be sessions, such as live lessons, that you will need to attend in 'real time' but you can be flexible with the timing and organisation of the other sessions if you wish. Children who are attending school will also be following their class timetable too. In this way we are trying to make the offer of learning in school and at home as equitable as possible.

If your child is in Honey Bee or Carpenter Bee class then their pack of learning resources (such as number line, bead strings etc.) is now available for you to collect from the lobby during school hours. Please look after these resources as we will need them to be returned after the lockdown. We are also putting a variety of exercise books in the lobby for you to help yourselves to. Much of the learning will be submitted and responded to on teams but you may like to physically keep it all in one place in an exercise book.

Please note that your child's class teacher will be setting learning, teaching, responding and feeding back to their class for the majority of the time however there will be one day a week where they will be teaching children who are in school. On this day they will still set work for their class but will not be able to take any live lessons or respond to that day's work. However, work will be responded to as soon as possible. The days that the teachers are in school are as follows:

Teacher / class	Day in school
Miss Wodehouse - Bumblebee (YrR)	Monday
Mrs Mitchell - Honey Bees (Yr1)	Tuesday
Miss Kirby - Carpenter Bees (Yr2)	Wednesday
Miss Richards - Nectar Class (Yr3&4)	Thursday
Ms Pandey - Honeycomb (Yr4&5)	Thursday
Mrs Taylor - Bee Keepers (Y6) (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday morning)	Wednesday morning
Mrs Noott - Bee Keepers (Yr6) (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday & Friday)	Wednesday afternoon



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At the moment, with the pandemic raging, home is the safest place for us all to be if we can, but we recognise the need for critical key workers to be able to attend their work and keep important services going. We also know how important it is for our vulnerable children to be in school at this time. I would ask you to consider the importance of this national lockdown and the need for your child to be in school, particularly if you are working from home as a key worker or if just one parent is a key worker. We will be open throughout for all the children and families who need us; particularly our vulnerable families.

In order to arrange our teaching and support staff, we need to know the numbers of children attending school in person every week. We will therefore be sending out a google form every Wednesday to take requests for in school places. This form will ask for the category of Critical Worker and/or vulnerability related to your child in line with this document

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> .

The Google form will be sent on a Wednesday and **must** be returned by Friday to secure your child's place for the following week. You will need to fill this form in for every week that you require a school place.

If your child is attending school 'in person' then please note the following housekeeping information:

- School gates will open at 8:40am with lessons starting at 8:50am
- School will finish at 3:00pm.
- Please use the usual drop off and pick up routines and maintain social distancing from other parents. (Work has now completed on the KS1 area so the KS1 gates are back in use.) We are continuing to request that adults wear masks when dropping off or picking up.
- We will continue to offer school dinners. The menu will be as close as possible to the menu published but there will be some small changes as we have limited supplies currently.
- Your child needs to wear school uniform and bring a warm coat to school. On the days that your child has PE (Monday & Friday KS1, Wednesday & Friday KS2) they need to come to school in their PE kit.

We hope you are keeping well during this time. Please remember we are here in school to take any calls and answer any questions you may have. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone. Our collective actions now will have a positive impact in the future.

With best wishes



Miss Sarah Vittle
Headteacher



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