



8th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

GOSH!! What a whirlwind of a few days it has been for us all!!

We hope you are all well and are keeping yourselves and your children safe – we miss you all so very much. Without a shadow of a doubt, this period is going to be challenging for everyone and we hope you are all beginning to adjust well in these difficult circumstances.

First and foremost, for those of you now struggling to work from home with your children trying to complete online learning, you have our sincere sympathies. It is not an easy task and is most certainly one that we would not ever have hoped to wish upon you. Remember, you ARE amazing; you are doing the best possible job in supporting your children; you deserve a medal!!!

We are not expecting you to teach your children – that is our job – just that you support them wherever and whenever you can and as best as you can. This may look very different in each household. However, this looks, do not ever feel guilty and feel that you are not doing a good job – YOU ARE!! Consequently, we do think it is very important to keep reminding ourselves that school will not be closed forever, although it may seem that way at the moment. We all want to be back at school as soon as possible.

Most of you will now have begun to access the online learning provided for the children. The purpose of this communication is to remind you of a few key points contained within our remote learning policy. The policy was based on the following LEGAL requirements stipulated by the Government, DfE and OFSTED:

When teaching pupils remotely, we 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 for Key Stage one, this will be less for reception aged pupils.
- 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
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject

The amount of work set for the children and the breadth of the curriculum required is not a school choice, rather the directive of the DfE in ensuring continuity of education for the children as far as possible. We need to remember that the expectation placed upon us all during this lockdown is very

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different from the last. It is becoming increasingly important to ensure that children access education either remotely or in school, as the necessity for further lockdowns is unknown. Children simply cannot be placed at detriment in their future lives having missed huge chunks of education and learning.

Reminders:

- Home learning will be accessible via the 'Tapestry' platform – should you have any problems with accessing this, please inform us immediately and we will support you. Having encountered issues with access over the past two days, we have contacted Tapestry, who have assured us that the FULL service will be up and running by Monday at the very latest. Improvements are being made to adjust to the number of pupils accessing the system Nationally – please bear with us whilst this happens.
- The work loosely follows your child's usual timetable – so your child will receive work on a daily basis which will continue through this period of home learning. It is a Government directive that children receive learning and a broad and balanced curriculum online.
- We hope you can understand that we are unable deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, as nothing compares to face to face learning, but our ultimate aim is that your children will not miss out by not being in school at the moment. We've tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils learning at home and those in school – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period. Children in school are taking part in the SAME learning and have the SAME educational offer.
- Children / parents should check their Tapestry account on a daily basis for messages and tasks sent from their classroom teacher. Where work is set, children are to complete the task and send it back to their teacher for feedback. We are happy if you chose to upload work throughout the day or in one go at the end of the day. If you have issues with Tapestry, please feel free to email your child's work.
- Finally, if your children 'run out' of things to do, encourage them to play, get fresh air in the garden, enjoy being children. We will also send out next week a list of additional activities should you require more.

If you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know. We are contactable throughout the Closure period should you need advice/support.

Please take care and keep in touch. We miss you all so much.

Keep safe,

Kate and Lizzy