

08.01.2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the amazing support you have all given to the staff this week. Like us, you have had to adapt quite considerably and very rapidly to the new changes in place. With any new systems, there will undoubtedly be tweaks and feedback we have had from both staff and parents has been really constructive. In response to this feedback, we hope to apply some changes next week that will enable us to continue providing a high level of education but in a slightly different way.

I believe what is hugely important for the next half term is that we all look after ourselves both physically and mentally. In an ideal world, we would wish for every child to be on every zoom and complete every piece of work that is set for them but this is an unrealistic expectation. Many of you will be working from home at the same time as trying to support your own children with their studies. It has been a very intense few days and staff have been working tirelessly - I also have a duty of care to protect their well-being as well as the children's.

Therefore, we have discussed as a staff how we can make remote learning more flexible while still maintaining our high levels of expectation. We will try this approach next week and will welcome your feedback. If needs be, we will tweak again the following week. Timings of zoom sessions are very much constrained by staff availability in school so can be more difficult to change. We know that these timings will not be suitable to everyone all of the time but we will do our best to ensure that children still have access to a wide range of remote learning opportunities.

- Staff will still continue to provide 3 zooms a day and set the corresponding work on Seesaw for your child to complete. However, if you need to miss an occasional session for any reason, please just let your child's teacher know via Seesaw. You can also complete the work set at any time in the day to suit your own agenda at home. If you would prefer to get some fresh air in the morning, please do.
- Timetable slots such as Lexia and TTRS can be done at any time in the day if the allocated time is not suitable for you. These can be very flexible.
- Staff will not be setting any additional homework for your child during the lockdown period. Our only expectation is that you try to continue reading with your child at least 3 times a week. Sharing a book together is also a lovely activity you can do.
- A Wednesday afternoon will now be dedicated to well-being activities. Teachers will not do a live zoom in this session. Instead, we have created a family menu of activities that you can complete together at home. We have tried to keep these as non-screen activities as we appreciate that remote learning relies heavily on screen time. This will be uploaded to Seesaw later today. You are also very welcome to do your own well-being activities if you prefer - ours are just suggestions if you need some inspiration. The

children in school will also have the opportunity to do these types of activities. We feel this approach will give a purposeful break to pupils, parents and staff mid-way through the week.

- If you are having any difficulties whatsoever, either technical or practical, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance – there may be ways we can offer support. It is vital we keep communication open between school and home to ensure remote learning is working as smoothly as possible.
- However, staff will not be expected to respond to messages on Seesaw after 5pm but will get back to you as soon as they can. They are working incredibly hard and need to have a cut off. They may also not be able to get back to you immediately in the day if they are teaching. Please be patient with us.
- After a meeting earlier today, zoom links will now be sent out in advance. Class teachers will liaise with you via Seesaw as to how they will do this moving forward.
- If you are sending your child into school, they should not be on the playground before 8.40am please. We have a number of **unsupervised** children arriving very early.
- Please remember that your children should only be coming in to school if you are a key worker and there is no one else at home who can look after them. Please only use us on the days you are working. If you do not work full time, please do not send them in every day unless we have specifically requested that you do. Some of our bubbles are already getting quite full and we need to ensure we always have spaces for children who absolutely need them. We need to reduce social contact wherever we can and the guidance states that even if you are a key worker, you should keep them at home if you can.
- If you have borrowed a school device but no longer need it, please return it to school as we do have a waiting list of families needing to borrow one. I am led to believe that if your child has an X-Box then Seesaw can be accessed through this. To do this, you will need to download the browser on to the console (apparently!) It will also need to have a camera. Please check this will work before returning the school device.
- Our house competition this term will be for the house with the most dojo points! Teachers will be adding them from school for the children at home as well. We will send out totals each week so you can see which house is winning 😊
- Finally, please remember your child's teacher and teaching assistant are working incredibly hard to ensure your child's education is not too disrupted throughout this lockdown. If you have any feedback or comments you would like to make to them that might enhance the remote learning we are providing, please be respectful and polite.

Once again, thank you for all of the amazing support you have shown this week. Those of you that have taken the time to send in messages of support have really lifted our spirits – please do keep these coming. We will get through this together 😊