



11th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Remote Learning Term 3

With one week of this lockdown under our belt, the teaching team have been able to reflect on last week and discuss the way forward; including how we might improve and adjust our remote learning offer.

As I mentioned last week schools now have specific guidance from the Department for Education relating to both the curriculum and the expectation of pupil engagement in remote learning. All schools are advised to offer a similar curriculum to the one that the school would deliver if pupils were attending school. I am confident that we are delivering our planned curriculum – with a few tweaks that are necessary to make online delivery more user friendly and manageable. We are using online resources to replace some independent tasks but these still enable pupils to complete meaningful and appropriate tasks.

There are one or two challenges in relation to responding and fully interacting to any work completed by our pupils. At the beginning of this week, teachers will discuss with pupils the expectations of what pupils should upload of any work they have completed.

Below you will find an outline of what should be uploaded and when. When teachers set tasks via online resources and these form part of the follow-up task from a lesson then pupils are expected to complete this:

For example

- Following a maths lesson your child might be asked to complete a MyMaths task. This should be completed as directed and the teacher will, as and when appropriate, give feedback on the task.
or
- A teacher may teach a 'sentence stacking' lesson in English and the task for the children would be to complete the sentences as directed. This piece of work should then be uploaded (photo or scan) to the OneDrive Folder. Teachers will then mark this and provide feedback as per their marking schedule. [see section 'marking and feedback']
or
- If your child completes a task from the 'remote learning schedule' eg a piece of artwork – this should be uploaded (picture or scan) to the OneDrive Folder.

Uploading work to OneDrive folders will then provide further evidence that your child has engaged in remote learning and will provide teachers with work that can be marked and enable them to provide feedback and address misconceptions in future lessons.

The Government guidance outlines the expectation that pupils will engage in the following Foundation Stage - to engage in some focused learning activities (number work and phonics)
KS1 (Years 1 & 2) 3 hours on average a day
KS2 (Years 3 to 6) 4 hours on average a day

Our 'live lessons' via Zoom and the additional tasks set adequately cover this requirement. Schools are asked to work with parents whose children are not engaging in the school's remote learning offer. I appreciate that it can be a challenge to manage the multiple demands on you – especially if you are juggling working from home yourself with supporting your child/children with their learning. The purpose of the 'live lessons' is to provide support and for the teacher to lead the learning. If your child participates in the 'live lessons' and follow up tasks then we can all be sure they are meeting the above expectations and we can avoid them developing gaps in their learning.

Marking and Feedback

Last week I briefly touched on the need for my teaching team to have a manageable workload during this time of school closure. I am sure you will agree that they have done a great job of getting remote learning up and running in such a short time frame. The quality of the 'live lessons' has been excellent and provided our pupils with a very high quality alternative to 'in school' lessons.

It is important that we are realistic about the expectations around marking and feedback. In a normal lesson a teacher will give 'in the moment' feedback and deal with misconceptions as they arise in a lesson. Teachers often work with a group each day and provide them with targeted feedback. Some children are completing a great deal of work and uploading it to their OneDrive folders, clearly not all this work can be marked for every child.

From Week 2 (11th January 2021) teachers will mark a selection of work that relates to a pupil's English 'sentence stacking' lessons focusing on key points that will provide pupils with clear feedback on how improvements or adjustments can be made. Pupils should only complete the MyMaths task as directed by their teacher – feedback will be given if necessary. When an independent piece of maths work is uploaded – if there are errors or misconceptions these will be addressed by the teacher. Maths work that meets the learning objective will be acknowledged by the teacher.

Teachers in Years 1-6 will also offer the opportunity for a parent to have a 15 minute one to one Zoom call to answer questions and/or offer more individual support. Further details will follow during this week.

Teachers will comment on remote learning tasks (art, geography, science etc) if this work exceeds the learning objectives and is of a high standard for the individual child. Work that is over and above that set by the teacher will not be marked as there will not be sufficient time to complete this.

I hope that this letter offers some clarity in relation to the Government's remote learning expectations. Our aim will always be to adopt a balanced approach. However, it will be important in the coming weeks that we do all we can to continue each child's learning journey and provide them with a high quality remote education that is as close as the education pupils receive when they are in school.

With kind regards,

Sue Elliott,
Headteacher