

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearing the end of our third week in lockdown! I know that home schooling brings challenges for us all but, it would seem that this will continue for some time to come or at the very least until half term! Indeed a briefing paper from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education states:

'I know there are significant challenges in the coming weeks for school and college leaders. We know that receiving face to face education is best for children's and young people's mental health and for their educational achievement. It is therefore my sincere hope that with the efforts we are all making to contain the virus, children and young people across England will be back in the classroom, spending time with their friends and teachers, and getting back into the rhythms of the school or college year again soon. We are keeping plans for the return to school and college under continuous review and will ensure that children and young people return to face to face education as soon as it is possible. We will inform schools, colleges and parents ahead of the February half term.'

In the meantime we are trying to improve our home learning offer by responding to queries we have from parents and making our offer as explicit and as clear for you as we possibly can.

To this end we are sending a ['crib' sheet](#) with this letter to help you navigate our Home Learning page easily. (This will also be available on the website!) We have added more detail to the weekly plans to help guide you with the links to videos/PowerPoints, worksheets and answers clearly accessible.

Although many parents collect a printed pack that has a copy of the weekly planning grid in; it is still important that you go to the website to click on the links as there are clear teaching points in the videos /PowerPoints to support your child's learning rather than just doing the worksheet. Some of the videos and PowerPoints give teaching points and then ask the children to complete a section of the worksheet before moving on.

You will see that Reading is built into timetable; it is important that children read on a daily/regular basis. This will help improve their reading stamina along with all the other benefits of reading!

Independent writing tasks are also part of the weekly plans for each year group. It is important that children complete these tasks with minimal adult input; this will give them the opportunity to practise their grammar, punctuation and spelling skills and enable us to assess where they are. We would do this in class but would give some discussion to generate their ideas. Writing is the similar to the reading in that we need to build children's stamina for independent writing.

The Music lesson links are fab as are the Spanish lessons for Years 3-6 and maybe a little less onerous for you!

As well as children being able to log in to the learning platforms that we subscribe to, there are lots of additional websites for you to use such as Oak Academy and BBC bitesize. These are all signposted on our website.

We are also setting a weekly whole school challenge for a Friday – designed to be fun and we would love to see any photographs of the children taking part at home.

I appreciate that there is an awful lot and I know that everyone is trying to juggle work commitments alongside lots of other pressures too. This information is to try to support you rather than be overbearing! Just do what you can, when you can – we know it is tricky!

Please use your class email google account to contact class teachers if you have any queries. Teachers will try their best to respond during day as soon as they possibly can.

For any issues that cannot be resolved via an email conversation, we are offering a telephone appointment system for each class. There is a limited amount of 'slots' and these will need to be booked via 'Teachers to Parents' in the same way you do for parent's evenings. **Please note** that these telephone appointments are **only** for those children who are '**home learning**'.

Days and times are as follows:

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Reception	2 – 4p.m.		
Year 1		2 – 4p.m.	
Year 2			2 – 4p.m.
Year 3	2 – 4p.m.		
Year 4		2 – 4p.m.	
Year 5	2 – 4p.m.		
Year 6			2 – 4p.m.

Any work that you want to share with your child's teacher, please use the class email account. We are going to compile a display in the hall to bring home and school learning together and share our achievements! We will also try and do this on our school website and social media. We had a lovely gift today from a family which is a framed print saying 'What have you done today to make you feel proud'- this will be at the centre of our display! I think it sums up perfectly what we are trying to do to celebrate how fabulous all of our children are whether at home or in school! Plus it is our school celebration assembly song!

We are also hoping to start hosting class assemblies from next week. This will enable the children to see their teacher, classmates and friends albeit virtually and hopefully bring some kind of 'family/team' feel of togetherness! I think we all need it! These will be done via Microsoft Teams and a login will be sent to you via text next week as soon as we are good to go! There will also be a timetable so you know when it is your child's assembly. We may just give it a trial with a couple of classes first before we roll it out so that we can deal with any glitches. The assemblies will incorporate some fun activities as well as catching up! During each class assembly we will award a '*School Learner Star of the Week*' and a '*Home Learner Star of the Week*'. This will hopefully motivate the children to work hard and complete tasks both in school and at home and reflect that all children are doing exactly the same whichever 'setting' they are learning in!

Once again – a huge 'Thank You' for your support with everything that we are doing to try and ensure that all children are learning and getting the best they possibly can in such different and difficult circumstances.

Take care and stay safe.

Wendy Gill & staff