

6 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is day 2 of school closures and day 1 of remote/online home learning. I do hope you were able to find the stand alone home learning for today with ease and the Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their WOW day activities without the interaction in school.

I am sure that those of you who home schooled in the summer term have fond memories of this time with their children. Of course, there will be differences this time – the weather for one and the live teaching sessions which will be taking place everyday for another. These will enable you to see how we teach and support your child with the subsequent independent activities. As we move through the term (it is clear we will not be in school until late February at the earliest), there will be more opportunities for smaller guided groups sessions led by the teachers and teaching assistants to further support the independent work.

In school we are busy completing the home learning for the coming term. There will be live English and Mathematics sessions each morning plus an afternoon session linked to topic or reading depending on the day. The topic sessions will be a mix of independent learning on project work in Years 5 and 6 and more multitask learning in Reception. The length of time for each session is generally around 30 minutes but there will be between 3 and 4 hours worth of learning provided per day to meet the expectations as set out by the DFE. We will also be leading worship for each key phase at specific times of the day as well for everyone to join in. The timetable for activities are now on the class webpages ready for tomorrow and the subsequent weeks.

Live lesson timings

Reception	Times	Years 1 and 2	Times
Phonics	10.00am	Mathematics	9.00am
Mathematics	11.30am	English/Phonics	11.00am
Topic/story time	2.00pm	Topic/science	1.45pm
Year 3 and 4	Times	Year 5 and 6	Times
Mathematics	9.15am	Mathematics	9.30am
English	10.30am	English	11.15am
Topic	1.15pm	Topic	1.30pm

We have tried as much we can to stagger the timings so that families with multiple children will be able to access the live sessions if you are sharing one device at home. If you are unable to make those times of the day then the flipchart and resources will be available online to go through later. The teacher will begin using Zoom to start with for the live lessons with the learning uploaded onto the class webpage. From Monday the learning activities will be placed and set on Google classroom. This will be easier for the children to then complete the tasks and save them to the google drive for their class for the teachers to be able to look at. Alongside this letter is a student/pupil guide to use of Google classroom for you to become familiar with the log on system over the weekend.

The teachers have created a structured timetable for you to follow on a daily basis. This is especially key for those children in Reception where much of the learning is based on short, varied activities. It also suggests break times to coincide with those being taken in school for the key phase as well as different activities for PE, music, etc. Please be kind and patient with the children and help them maintain their enthusiasm and engagement in the learning.

We will be monitoring the engagement of pupils. If your child is not engaging in the learning by completing work or not logging onto the live sessions the class teachers will be contacting you to check in how things are going and see what else may be needed to support you.

As I have said before, if you require assistance with paper copies of the learning activities please let your class teachers know in advance and they will have the packs ready for you on a Monday morning from 9.15am. You will be allocated a specific time to collect the packs so to minimise the number of parents on site. If you are having trouble connecting due to connectivity of internet or lack of devices please contact me to see how we can possibly help. We do not want this to prevent the children from engaging in their learning at home.

With regards to online protocols please re-read the Home/Remote Learning Policy and Protocols sent out last term and reposted on the Latest News section of the website on Monday. It outlines key aspects such as ensuring the children are ready to learning with the resources ie pencils/activity sheets/webpages/dressed (not in pj's) and not in their bedrooms/having an adult next to them or nearby for assistance/listening and being attentive. As previously stated please be patient and reassure your child/ren that if they are not chosen to answer a question in one session they will have an opportunity over the course of the day/couple of days. Not all the children can offer ideas and answers every time as is the case in school.

Please do send the work back to the class teachers to look at. The work will be looked at but not necessarily marked individually depending on the nature of the activity and age of the child/ren. We will be employing a general feedback approach to encompass celebration of successes in the work plus areas for development and any misconceptions (errors) that need to be addressed to improve the work.

Reception

As you know, in Reception we learn through play! At school the children have 'choosing time' throughout the day where they are able to select their own learning linked to the EYFS curriculum. This can encompass a whole range of activities including playdough, painting, making puzzles, playing games, exploring the sand and water trays and so on. Each week our learning and classroom provision is themed. We will provide a rainbow home learning chart of activities which will enable your children to access all areas of the EYFS curriculum.

Please choose at least one activity each day and send us photos of your child's learning on Evidence Me. In Reception, the children receive regular verbal feedback. We will therefore endeavour to respond to uploaded Evidence Me observations as often as we can.

In addition to the home learning activities, please continue to read regularly with your child. All the children have access to our online platform Rising Stars, we will issue new books regularly. Don't forget the blending bookmarks and keyring words in their reading folders too.

There are websites/apps which we recommend to continue your child's phonics progress: - Teach your monster to read, Phonics Play and Phonics Bloom (focus on phase 2 games please).

Please keep using the resources in your child's maths and home learning folder too.

Years 1 and 2

Children who are home learning are encouraged to share their work via Google Classrooms. This will be read and feedback will be given as a whole class during that subjects next live lesson.

We will not be providing individual feedback for work completed at home.

Live teaching sessions will start with feedback from the previous lesson, through the sharing of some of the children's work to celebrate successes and to address any common misconceptions.

We will provide answer sheets for parents to use when appropriate.

On occasions we may give individual feedback for English work, including next steps.

In addition to the home learning activities, please continue to read regularly with your child. All the children have access to our online platform Reading Planet

Years 3 and 4

Children who are home learning are encouraged to share their work via Google Classrooms. This will be read and feedback will be given as a whole class. We will be commenting on:

1. What the children did well in the lesson, celebrating examples of good work.
2. Clarifying any common misunderstandings and mistakes.
3. Identifying next steps in learning.

In addition to the home learning activities, please continue to read regularly with your child. All the children have access to our online platform Rising Stars.

Years 5 and 6

Children who are home learning are encouraged to share their work via Google Classrooms. This will be read and feedback will be given as a whole class. We will be commenting on:

In Y5/6 feedback will be given as three points:

1. What went well in the lesson, possible examples where appropriate
2. Addressing common misconceptions and errors
3. Next Steps in learning This could take the form of a question, identifying an error or amending their work

For the children to be able to continue reading please do log on to the Reading Planet website with the log on details that were sent home alongside the explanatory letter before the Christmas holidays. I know you probably had other things to do over the holidays but very few have actually logged on. This is the only way that the children will be able to continue reading, if not coming into school to change books. The class teachers will be monitoring the usage of this and encouraging the children to read daily. There are quizzes at the end of each book they read and they can win points for themselves and their class.

The children can also use Times Tables Rock Stars from Year 1 upwards to keep going with their times table learning. Once again the teachers have placed 'battles' between the houses and classes within their key phase.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the remote/online learning offer please contact either your child's class teachers for specific information or myself for generic ones. We are here to support you all. I am sure you will be amazing supporting your child/ren in the coming weeks. Keep smiling pat yourself on the back for doing a good job.

I will send letter out regularly to update everyone and post items on the website to keep in touch.

We hope that you and your families all stay safe and healthy and hope to see you all soon.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Paul D Smith
Head Teacher