



Working together, achieving together.

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and carers

Remote Learning

I am writing to you to let you know of the procedures for our remote learning during this period of National Lockdown.

First of all, thank you to those parents who have enabled their child(ren) to join us via TEAMS over the last 2 days to say 'hello' to their teachers and ensured that their connection to TEAMS works and technical glitches have, in the most cases, been ironed out. There will be 1 more 'Hello' session (Friday) that I would advise all those who haven't yet tried to log on do so to be certain everything is working well at both ends. My apologies if you didn't receive the initial notification about the meetings – Microsoft took the step to block Mrs Mackenzie's email account due to her having to send so many emails in a short space of time – great timing!

We will be delivering a range of both pre-recorded sessions and live sessions through the coming weeks and all children will receive a home learning pack similar to the one they received last lockdown. This will contain their school pencil case and paper copies of worksheets they will need to complete to compliment the TEAMS sessions from the teachers.

It is imperative that your child engages with the remote learning and that this is supported by you. If your child does not attend any of the TEAMS sessions we will be telephoning and emailing to try to understand why this is and support where we can.

If parents are not responding to our calls and emails then we may have to make a referral to social care. Our duty of safeguarding remains at the same level and, if we do not see or hear from you, and are obviously unable to make a welfare check to your home to ensure everyone is safe and well as we would under normal circumstances, we would have no alternative but to make a referral to agencies that do have the capacity to attend your home.

We would ask that if you do experience technical difficulties you contact school immediately, in the similar way that you would if they were absent from school due to illness.

Learning packs will be picked up and dropped off on weekly basis (Friday) and this will be done whilst adhering to social distancing and all adults on site for collection are required to wear a face covering. There is to be no congregating outside the school whilst you wait for your time slot and you should arrive at your allocated time, drive into the school car park, collect/ drop off work pack and then swiftly return to your vehicle. This system worked very well last time and this was due to all parents being mindful and supportive of the process and the guidance.

Staff have worked very hard, whilst also delivering sessions in school, to create the packs and we ask that if you have a reason for not collecting your child/ren's pack(s) at the allocated time you courteously contact the school to let us know **when** you can collect. Please be mindful that the work in the pack directly relates to the timetabled lessons that will be delivered from the following Monday.

The vast majority of our children showed their dedication and commitment to their education during the last lockdown and completed the majority, if not all, of the tasks set and we ask that you support your child to do this again.

As teachers we are frustrated that we find ourselves in this position again and, given the choice, we would always choose to have all the children in our classes to teach face-to-face. Regrettably, for most of our pupils this is not possible at the present time. Hopefully by visiting your home remotely each day we can provide an even better service to your child than we did during the last lockdown.

We know how difficult home schooling can be from first-hand experience for some of us too, but, if we all follow the guidance, this lockdown won't last any longer than is absolutely necessary.

We would ask that parents do not use the children's TEAMS sessions to ask staff questions directly, as this is the children's time with their teacher. As in the last lockdown period questions can be emailed through to us where we will endeavour to answer them as swiftly as we can.

I have also been sent through some recommended websites / apps for children with Special Educational Needs and have attached this as it may be useful for all children, not just those with a specified difficulty, as there are some suggestions for social, emotional and mental wellbeing.

I hope that this letter helps answer any questions you may have as to how remote learning is going to look for the children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lisa Sexton
Headteacher