



Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner

Thursday 28 January 2021

Headteacher Update #2

Dear Families,

We are now almost four weeks into this current lockdown and period of remote learning. Before I say anything else, I would like to say a genuine and heartfelt thankyou and well done for the amazing effort you are all putting in to **support our children** during this difficult time.

As teachers, parents, and most importantly, human beings, we really do understand that life is far from normal at the moment and that supporting your children's learning is one of many things that you may be trying to juggle at home. Whilst we do have high expectations and do not want to see any of our children miss out on learning, we do **understand that sometimes life is just not as simple** as the DfE would like us to believe- remote learning is hugely important for our children's education and wellbeing but home will never be an exact substitute for school. Whilst we will continue to be in contact or give you a call to discuss how you and your children are getting on with the learning being set, we are also doing this to show that **we are here for you**. Miss Robbins and I have had many calls with families over the last few weeks. Yes, these have been initiated by us wanting to explore any issues that children may have engaging with learning; however, the most important outcome from all of these conversations is that we have hopefully been able to **reassure you and demonstrate that we understand**, and will support, each and every one of you. Our children need to continue to learn as best they possibly can during this period but they also need the continued love, support and emotional stability that you, as their parents and carers, always provide. School does not seek to add stress or anxiety to an already pressurised situation- **we just care deeply about our children and want to do the best for all of them** whether at home or school.

When our children do return, yes, we want them to be as school-ready as possible; this will be helped by maintaining their learning at home. However, the ultimate hope is that they return **happy- mentally and emotionally well**. This, more than anything, is what we all prioritise. If we achieve this during the lockdown, then we can once again begin our jobs of teaching your amazing young people. Please remember that **we are here to listen and support**. Should you have any concerns, be struggling to get your children to complete learning or feel that things are becoming too difficult, please reach out to us.

Below, you will find some other key information and updates.

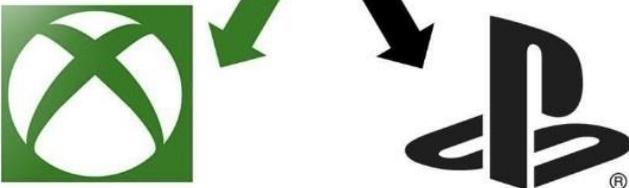
Devices

We hope that we have now managed to get devices to any family who needed one. We have been able to secure a limited number of additional laptops that we are able to loan out to families. We also have some data SIM cards from Vodafone that give 30GB of data for 90 days. If you require any support with devices or internet access, please email the school office.



Please remember that you are also able to access Microsoft Teams via a PlayStation or Xbox.

Don't have a laptop? You can access Remote Learning through your Xbox or PlayStation



Xbox Instructions:

1. Plug in a keyboard and mouse (if you have them) into the USB port
2. Go to My Games and Apps
3. Find and open Microsoft Edge
4. Type in www.office.com as you would to access Office 365
5. Login and you can access Teams, Office 365, Outlook and OneDrive
6. You can also use Kinect for audio

PlayStation Instructions:

1. Press the PS4 Logo on the controller
2. Go to the library and find the internet browser (WWW)
3. Open the browser
4. Type in www.office.com as you would to access Office 365
5. Login and you can access Teams, Office 365, Outlook and OneDrive

Remote learning survey

A huge thank you to everyone who completed our remote learning survey over the past few days. We have had 110 responses and the senior team and I will now be analysing the results which will be shared with you shortly. It has been lovely to read the **positive and appreciative messages** from our families; the majority of people who responded have stated that they can **recognise the improvements** we have made to remote learning during this lockdown.

As I shared in my previous letter, we are viewing our provision for remote learning as a **continuous model**- something that will be continued to be refined and adapted as we move through the coming weeks and months. We have already introduced a **daily live feedback session** for pupils in key stage 2. This has been well-received and enables children at home to interact and gain feedback and support from the teacher 'face to face'.

From next week, we will be introducing a **live daily writing session for years 1 to 6**. Writing is an area in which we feel we need to provide more structured support to enable our pupils to write successfully. Sessions will last for approximately thirty minutes and involve both the children at home and at school. Please check ClassDojo for further details from your child's teacher.

Reading books

Reading remains one of our key priorities during lockdown. It is vital that all **children continue to read daily** as this is such a key component of learning.

Our **weekly book swap** will continue every **Wednesday between 2.00 and 2.45pm**. You will be able to collect and return reading scheme books and books for free readers. This visit will have to form part of your daily exercise and we ask that you maintain social distancing and wear a face covering. Please also continue to use the Oxford Owl website which gives access to a wide range of books based on the schemes that we use in school: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Celebrating learning

Our first **Celebration Assembly** was a great success last week. These will now be taking place every Friday at 2.30pm with a focus on children who have been **sparkling with emerald power!** This will replace the Friday class Teams reflection time.



Keeping safe

E-safety

We are currently reviewing our e-safety guidance and acceptable use policies in light of the increased use of digital technologies during remote learning. Prior to this being issued, I would like to share some key points concerning e-safety:

- School staff will only communicate via Microsoft Teams during school hours
- The meetings will be shared via a secure link; please do not forward or share this with others
- The 'waiting room/ lobby' function will be enabled so that staff can see who is waiting to join the meeting
- Please ensure that your child's name is displayed as the user name on Teams so that staff know who is attending the meeting
- Whenever a live Teams meeting is taking place, a parent/carer should be nearby and be able to hear the content of the meeting
- Provide supervision when your child is using Teams and remind them of appropriate conduct
- Remind your child about only using the chat function for appropriate questions and comments related to the session. Any child who uses the chat facility inappropriately will be spoken to by the class teacher and the incident will be logged on our records
- Adults and children must be appropriately dressed
- Video calls must only take place in communal areas e.g. living room, dining room and NOT a child's bedroom
- Participants should consider what personal information is displayed in the background. It is advisable to select a blurred background filter
- If a child or parent has a concern about the content or conduct of another child during the call, this must be reported to the class teacher

Advice and information about supporting your child to stay safe online can be found on the following websites:

- Safer internet advice for families: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
- NCA-CEOP: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Mental health and wellbeing

Please remember that even if your child is not attending school, **we are always here to support you in any way that we can.** If you have questions about the learning for your child, please contact the class

teacher via ClassDojo. Should you have any wider concerns or need someone to speak to, please contact us. Below are some useful links for supporting families at this time:

- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>
- Young Minds- supporting your child's mental health: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>
- Domestic Abuse Services (Refuge): <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>
- Emergency Food Aid: <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/for-your-body/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Neil McKellar-Turner
Headteacher

