



## Remote learning- January 2021 Lockdown- Information and Protocols

07.01.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support whilst we have been getting things sorted over the last couple of days. I hope that your child has enjoyed completing their activities on Purple Mash. This letter is to explain to you what you can expect from the school whilst schools are closed to most children.

Unlike the lockdown in March, schools are obligated by law to provide remote learning, not just activities for children. It is an expectation that children will engage in the learning by watching the teaching and completing the activities. We know that this can put pressure onto families and understand that. If you are struggling at any time, please let us know and we will see how we can help. The minimum expectation is that children in KS1 access 3 hours of learning a day, and those in KS2 access 4 hours. This will include both the teaching time (recorded and live) and the time it takes to complete the activities.

Unlike some schools, we have kept to class bubbles, with children being taught by their own teacher, supported by their usual TA. Our intervention TAs are also at school, working. The staff are working hard, providing learning for your children at home, whilst also providing learning for the children who are in the classroom.

From this coming Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, your children will be given a full timetable of lessons, following, as closely as possible, the work which the children who are in class are doing.

Your child will receive a Teams invite for some of their work. This will go to their school email address. Class Teams are being set up today and you will receive your child's email address and password tomorrow. You can either download the Teams app and log in that way or use the web version. A "How To" guide for Teams will be sent to you separately.

Each day your child will have a maths and an English lesson among other lessons. For the first week (commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January) these may well be recorded and sent to you later than they are actually happening.

From the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January, these will be sent out live as well as being recorded so that your child can access them again if they need to refer to them, or so that they can be viewed at a different time if your device that they need to watch them on, is being used elsewhere.

The teachers are embracing this new technology, but are obviously wary about how things are going to go! Please expect things **not** to be perfect! There will no doubt be IT glitches and also stumbles by the teachers, as they are understandably nervous about being "beamed" into your homes! They have agreed to do this though, as we consider in this way, we will be providing the best that we can

for your children. Each teacher will be doing their very best under far from ideal circumstances, and therefore please, if you feel the need to comment about lessons on social media, be positive and refrain from negative comments. By letting your child watch the teaching, live or recorded, you are agreeing not to download the sessions or share them in any way.

Once teachers are confident and used to working in this way, we plan to allow the children watching at home to “raise their hand” and actively participate. All of the sessions will be recorded for safeguarding purposes, so if you do not want your child’s face to appear on the screen at any time, please turn your camera off. We are sure that the children will enjoy these sessions and will all behave appropriately. If your child does behave inappropriately, they will be removed from the session so that the learning of the other children is not disrupted. If this happens, you will be notified so that you can talk to your child about this.

In the week of 18<sup>th</sup> January and going forward, your child will be sent an invitation, via Teams, to participate in a Well-Being session. This is an opportunity for them to meet with the teacher/TA and approximately 10 of their classmates who are also working from home. Unlike all other sessions, these are not compulsory, but offer your child a chance to have a chat and a catch up and perhaps talk about anything they have enjoyed or are struggling with.

In “real life” children are often given extra support or differentiated work to cater for their needs. Your child might receive a separate invitation to join a Team after the teacher has given their input so that they can continue to access this support, where appropriate and possible. This might be on an individual or small group basis. Again, all sessions will be recorded, and we ask you not to share them with anyone else. For this, your child would ideally have their camera and microphone on. Laptops and tablets have these built in. It may be necessary to purchase a separate one for a PC.

For children who receive specific interventions, these will also carry on- either in the form of activities sent home or recorded sessions being sent to specific children. The parents of children to whom this applies will be notified separately.

During each day there will be 2 live phonics sessions for reception and Year 1. It is imperative that your child has the opportunity to join in with these sessions, even if they access the recording rather than the live session.

If you, as a parent, want to view any sessions as they are going out live, please ensure that you do not post any comments or ask any questions of the teacher. Any questions, if asked for by the teacher, must entirely be your child’s own work! The same goes for when you watch my assemblies, which I am going to try to do for the whole school at once! These won’t start for a couple of weeks as I have to make a Team of the whole school, adding every child individually!

There will be other lessons during the day besides maths and English. These will be a mixture of live lessons, recorded lessons, voiced over Powerpoints, links to YouTube videos or other quality resources, including those on Purple Mash. Please see your child’s timetable for details of this, when it is published. The subjects covered will be Forest School, PE, RE, history/geography, art/DT, science, PHSEC, handwriting.

Children will be given work which they are expected to complete. We are trying to move away from online working only. Your child will need lined paper, plain paper and coloured pencils/pens. For activities which are paper based, please take a photograph of your child’s work and email it to the class teacher. This is so that the teacher can provide feedback to your child and check how they have got on with the activity. Activities completed on Purple Mash will be marked in the same way as they

have been throughout the pandemic. If the teacher notices that a child has a problem with a certain topic/ piece of work the child may be invited to a 1-1 Teams meeting so that the teacher can help. This will be recorded for safeguarding purposes. If a child has not submitted work or joined in sessions for 2 days you will receive a phone call from the class teacher so that they can support you in helping your child to access the learning.

Before your child accesses their Teams please can you go through the following expectations with them:

- I will use Microsoft Teams to support my learning and my well-being and not for personal matters.
- I understand that the normal high expectations of behaviour are expected of me and I will abide by the normal school rules especially when using technology.
- I know that this is a new way of learning but will try my best and use it to help my learning.
- I understand that I'm using an online platform to submit pieces of work and therefore will use the same standards of good work that I would do when working in my books at school.
- I agree the all forms of communication I post on Microsoft Teams will be positive, polite and respectful.
- I understand that the resources are there to support my learning, but I will still need to work hard.

Your child may contact the teacher at any time through Purple Mash. Parents may contact the teacher through the class email. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have any queries or issues.

We know that this is an awful lot to take in, but we are trying to make life as easy as possible for you. Hopefully, what we are doing will mean that you don't have to teach your child- we will be doing that, you just need to enable them to access the work and to give them some support if needed.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Lisa Montandon

Head Teacher