



6th January 2021

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Dear parents and carers

Welcome to Lockdown 3.0! What a strange world we all find ourselves in. All staff have been absolutely amazing in their resolve, determination and support to get this all sorted and ready for your children and it has been lovely to see children in school today.

After the Government's announcement on Monday evening, we anticipated that we would have a few children back in school and the majority of children at home. Therefore, we spent yesterday preparing for remote/online learning using Teams for Y1 to Y6 and Tapestry for reception pupils.

However, we now find ourselves in an unusual position as we have a lot more children needing places back in school than we thought we would have. Therefore: We have changed to a "blended" learning approach- real lessons in school and online lessons for home. This is a huge amount of work for teachers and support staff to deal with as they are having to cope with both "worlds" so please bear with us.

We do really appreciate the challenging home learning brings to parents - having to juggle work and home, teaching children with poor internet, having only one device between siblings, children reluctant to learn this way and so on. Staff will be calling you each week to see how the home learning is going and offer support. I know many of you have been in touch with school with teething problems getting online but we are so thrilled so many of you are now on Teams and using it effectively - well done!! Please say to your children that the activities set up are 'learning at home school work' rather than 'homework'!

One suggestion that was highly effective in last lockdown was your child starting each day with a timetable as close to a school timetable as possible - including starting at 9am, break at 10.30am, lunch time etc. drawn up on the timetable. Parents found this to be a really useful help to keep everyone on track. It also helps to break the day up into smaller manageable chunks. Some children even dressed in their school uniform!

We also understand that some children will have a completely different timetable if parents own work timetable dictates this or the use of shared devices. I know during last lockdown, one family's week went from Wednesday to Sunday with their weekend Monday and Tuesday! We can all only do the best we can.

Your child will be receiving daily home learning. Your child's class teacher will be posting lessons, videos, activities etc. for your child to complete at home. They will be monitoring the work that your child completes, giving feedback and will be there to answer queries and offer support. However, as teachers are having to teach in school they may not be able to respond quickly to any queries sent from online learners. We are trying to organise it so that they will have more time in the afternoons to be online and do this. Staff will also only be able to respond to online queries/comments/ give feedback between normal school hours.



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Staff will try their best to make online tasks as independent as possible, but obviously the younger the child is, the more difficult this is.

Some staff will be starting the school day with a meet and greet "live", some may be teaching some lessons "live" and some may be reading a story "live" at the end of the day so it's really important that if possible your children logs onto Teams for these lessons. However, even though some staff may want to go "live" for some parts of the day the internet at school may let us down. Some staff will be doing things differently – but you will be notified via Tapestry and Teams.

We have been informed that you can access Teams and tapestry via online Playstation and Xbox. You would of course need a keyboard and mouse but may be helpful to some families struggling for devices.

Please see the attached document which sets out our "remote learning protocols". Please read them and explain them to your child so they understand what is expected.

Can I also remind critical key worker parents to let us know by 9am each morning if your child is not attending school as you don't need to attend work on those certain days. Many thanks. We look forward to you joining us on Teams/Tapestry on the days you are at home.

On a personal note, I am sure that lots of you may be feeling overwhelmed and daunted by everything that's happening, yet again. The prospect of your children being at home for such a lengthy period of time is daunting, as is the thought of being responsible for their education. For what it's worth, this is my perspective on it all as a Headteacher:

Things to remember:

- This is still an emergency situation impacting on the whole world. You haven't chosen to home school. The lessons we learnt from last time round have helped us as a school to improve our offer, and we hope that this will make things slightly easier for you.
- You always have been your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child is struggling one day, do something else. If you end up baking, watching TV, or playing in the garden then that is your choice. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about. It supports good mental health.
- If you are worried your child will 'fall behind', try not to. The term that they have been with us has shown that each child is individual, and that their attainment and progress may have been affected. However, the last term has also shown us that they will still progress and continue to learn.



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- If your child is old enough, try to get them to do what they can independently – we've really tried to make work independent where possible.
- The government has asked us to provide a minimum of 3 hours per day of home learning for a primary child. It would be great if your child engages in all of it, but it is not worth your health and sanity if on certain days this doesn't happen. Your child's teacher will post encouraging feedback to your child. We will try our best to help you motivate them!

We are missing the children and are so looking forward to having them all back with us as soon as it's possible.

And finally, please if you see any media/posts about school being closed, please remember that we're not and haven't been since March!

Take care, stay kind and keep safe

With best wishes,
Susan Denham
Executive Headteacher