

## Keeping in Touch – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear all,

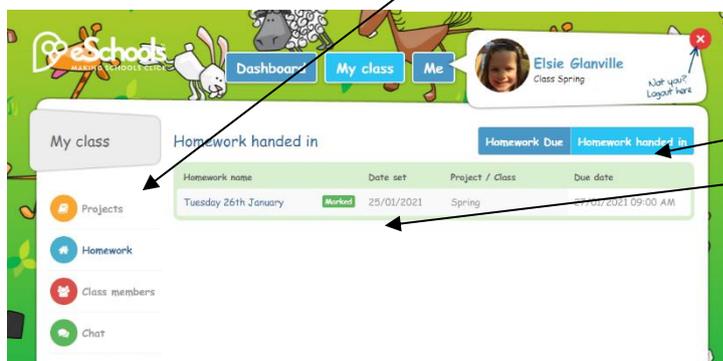
I hope you are all keeping safe and well at home.

We have now found out that the earliest date that schools could return to all children attending is 8<sup>th</sup> March, with the Government making their next major announcement about this on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. However disheartening it is to have it confirmed that we will not be coming back straight after half term, I have been gladdened by the commitment that children returning to school is the first national priority in terms of easing the lockdown restrictions. Also the feeling that the end is most definitely in sight now, and actually not a million miles away. That feels a positive way in which to end the week.

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the on-line questionnaire about our remote learning offer. I have spent a lot of time evaluating our provision this week: considering what you have said, discussing issues with other members of staff, and even joining in with a few zoom lessons which has been a real pleasure. Your feedback has mostly been very positive about the live lessons (88% saying these worked well) and the on-line systems we are using (85% saying these are easy to use). Also that we are setting the right amount of work (90%), at the right level (81%).

The area in which you would like to see most improvement is in teachers feedback to work submitted, with 56% saying that there was enough of this. We have talked about this as a staff, and understand the importance for children at home feeling that their work has been seen and read, in order for them to feel that their efforts are meaningful and to maintain their motivation. Teachers will increase their efforts to ensure that this is the case, and that the learning circle is complete. We also thought it was worth showing you where to look for marking comments, as it is not necessarily obvious where these might be found:

1. Click on 'My Class' then 'homework'



2. Click on Homework handed in

3. A green 'Marked' button shows that a teacher has seen it and written a comment. Click on the piece to open it up to see the feedback.

We also very much encourage children to respond to the comments that teachers have put, re-submitting work to them when they have made corrections and improvements. This is an integral part of the learning journey that children would be doing in school.

As well, we have agreed that teachers will leave all documents posted in a child's Homework area for a week, and will then remove these at the beginning of the next week so that the site does not become too complicated or 'full' for them to navigate.

We are very aware of what a difficult time it is for everyone at home, and that the different situations that each family find themselves in means that home learning throws up different challenges for different people. Our intention is that children should be independent during the zoom lessons and do not necessarily need an adult with them the entire time. The lessons are also designed to keep children connected to school and

learning, therefore we have certain expectations of them as we would in the classroom. We would very much like you and your child to follow the guidelines below, to help make the live lessons a successful experience for all:

1. Turn up on time - 2 minutes late is manageable, but 5-10 minutes late not so much...
2. Make sure you have eaten before or wait until after the zoom.
3. Have everything you need and be ready to listen - whiteboard and pen or pen and paper nearby please.
4. Make sure you are dressed and not in your pyjamas.
5. Be sat on a chair, preferably at a desk or table - not lying on your bed.
6. Make sure you have looked at the day's lessons (ideally with an adult) before the lesson so you know where to find the work you will be doing and have any resources you need ready.
7. Do not give yourself a silly name on screen or change the background displayed.
8. If you have an adult with you during the lesson you should not be relying on them to give you answers or do work for you. And adults, please don't be tempted to do this for your child, they learn far more through making their own mistakes.

We know what a tricky time this is for children and parents alike at home. People are feeling very isolated and disconnected from one another, and this has a huge impact on everyone's wellbeing. We are continually trying to find ways in school to counteract this, even to a small degree. Every class is organising live sessions that are focused on the children relaxing and having fun, or finding ways to help them manage within this situation. We will continue to do this as much as we can around delivering the academic curriculum remotely. But we realise that with all the focus on the children this can leave you as parents feeling alone and struggling to manage everything that is being asked of you at this time. Mrs Draper, our school's ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) would like to organise a zoom session for parents one evening to give you a space to share, discuss, commiserate and laugh about home learning and managing a family during a lockdown, and to help you all realise that you are not alone. If you are interested in joining this, please let Mrs Draper know by emailing her on [rd@keevil.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:rd@keevil.wilts.sch.uk)

This week saw the start of the optional regular covid testing of staff in primary schools. This involves staff taking home Lateral Flow Device 'rapid test' kits which they then carry out themselves twice a week. These tests are not as sensitive as the tests people can book through the NHS, but are designed to pick up people who have the virus but are asymptomatic. The guidance from the Government has been rather vague in parts. Any staff member who returns a positive LFD result has to have this confirmed through an NHS test. What the Government has not specified is what the contacts of this person should or shouldn't be doing whilst awaiting the confirmation of the NHS test. Acorn has made the decision that bubbles in school should be closed following a positive LFD test result to stop the spread of any potential infection. If the positive result is confirmed by the NHS test, then the bubble will remain closed for the 10 day isolation period. If the NHS test comes back negative then the bubble can re-open straight away. We will of course, keep you informed of developments at all times.

We have added a new page to the school website which is called 'Lockdown Library' - [https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/lockdown\\_library/538780](https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/lockdown_library/538780) It contains ideas and lots of links to on-line resources to help keep your child reading for pleasure at home. In a seminar I attended this week, someone said "If education is a treasure chest, then reading is the key to this." The more that you can encourage your child to read, the more you will aid their progress across the entire curriculum and assist their transition back into school when lockdown is over.

It doesn't look like we will have the excitement of snow this weekend, but I hope you all have a lovely time!

Best wishes,  
Lindsey Hermon