

Keeping in Touch – 15th January 2021

Dear all,

I hope that as you come to the end of this first full week of lockdown and remote learning, you are settling into the routine of it at home, and that the different aspects of it are feeling less new and easier to navigate. It has been a rapid learning curve for all of us in school as well, and we are certainly ending this week feeling much more confident using the technology and delivering teaching and learning in this new way. Many thanks for all the patience you have shown us as we have navigated this path. Please remember that we are all here to help and support you at home, we understand how bewildering and frustrating it can be at times. Your first port of call is to email your child's class teacher about any problems. You can also give us a call in school and we will always do our best to help.

Schools have remained in the headlines this week. There has been much controversy around the fulfilling of Free School Meal entitlements. Lataca, our food provider, has been creating weekly food parcels for families which have been of a significantly higher standard than those that have been shared on social media. However, Acorn have made the decision to revert to the use of supermarket vouchers from next week, as they feel this will provide the most support for families during this time. We will be in touch with eligible families separately regarding arrangements for this.

The issue around rapid and regular testing of children and staff in schools has also been in the news and causing controversy. Secondary schools are still in the process of setting up the capability for mass testing of their communities, and primary schools have been informed that we will start to receive home testing kits for staff from next week. Acorn have made the commitment to offer all of its staff regular testing moving forwards, using the hubs that are being established at Clarendon and Kingdown. For those of us who cannot make the move to working entirely from home this provides us with personal reassurance during an anxious time. It also helps us all feel confident that we are doing everything possible to keep the children who are coming into school safe and well.

Just a reminder that children from Y3 upwards have an individual username and password to access Times Table Rockstars (<https://play.ttrockstars.com/login/65191>) an on-line platform which provides games and activities to help children learn and remember times table facts. KS2 children spending some time on this every day during the school closure would be very beneficial for their maths learning. If you have forgotten your child's username or password please email jwn@keevil.wilts.sch.uk.

We are in the process of sending out usernames and passwords to children in Y2 so they can also use Times Table Rockstars. In addition, this log-in allows these children to access Numbots (<https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login/65191>) an on-line platform to help children learn and remember basic addition and subtraction facts, which is appropriate for KS1 pupils. We will be sending out log-in details to Y1 children next week as well so they can also use Numbots. It would be beneficial for KS1 children to be completing activities on this site on a daily basis. Both platforms work better in the browser Chrome rather than Internet Explorer, so try this if you get an error message. They also work well in Safari.

Please remember to keep sharing your stories and news with us in school. Even though we are being kept apart, we very much remain one family.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon



Learning
in school
this week

