



Executive Headteacher: Mr Jim Williams

'To learn every day, to help each other and to be happy.'

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that as the week has progressed, you have been able to begin to adjust to the significant restrictions which we are all facing as a result of the new national lockdown. Within his address to Parliament on Wednesday, the Secretary of State for Education (Gavin Williamson) stated that it is the Government's expectation for schools to provide a high-quality remote education. We are confident that we can achieve this aim over the coming days and weeks.

In order to best meet the needs of the children, at this extremely challenging time, we must more than ever, ensure that a strong partnership exists between home and school. I hope that the following updates are informative and useful.

Impact of the national lockdown on aspects of our provision

As a result of the national lockdown and the impact of the pandemic, there may well be a reduction in the capacity of external services / agencies to provide the normal levels of support. It may be the case that professionals who work alongside our SEN team are less accessible than normal. Another example is that the delivery of food supplies to the catering team has been affected. We appreciate your understanding that there will be a reduction in our overall capacity to deliver a level of provision which we would normally expect to achieve.

New information relating to remote learning:

- **Hard-copies:** for those families who have requested paper- copies of learning, your child's new learning pack for next week will be placed on a table outside the front of the school offices, ready for collection from **10:00 a.m. on Monday** morning. When picking up this new pack and book, please also **return the exercise book used this week as well as any completed tasks from the work-pack sent home**, by placing it in the 'return box'. In order to assess your child's ongoing needs we must monitor the work completed at home.
- **On-line learning:** for pupils engaging within their learning via Google classroom (Years 3-6), Purple Mash (Years 1 & 2) or Evidence Me (Reception) then please continue to communicate with the teacher who is leading the on-line learning, the tasks which were from your perspective successful, as well as suggestions for improvements.
- **Support with technology (Xbox or Playstation):** we are aware that for some families access to a device is a problem. We are committed to supporting you with this. In the first instance it may be of help to know that access to Google Classroom can be accessed via either Xbox or Playstation.

See the next page for a step-by-step set of instructions to help logon via these devices:

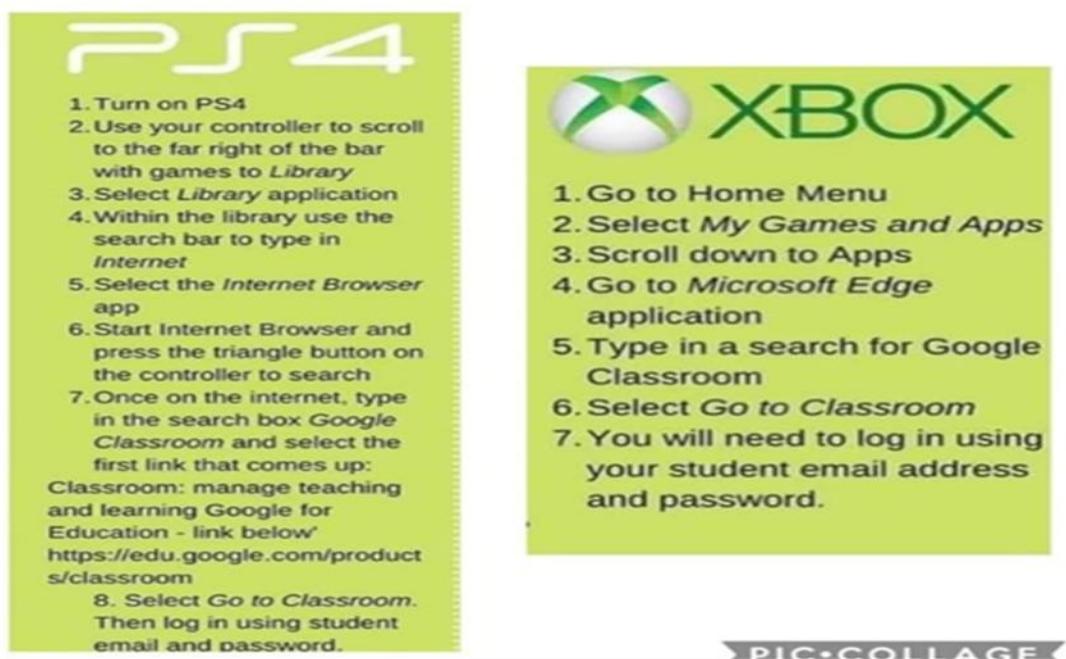


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Your child will not be able to edit or submit their work online in this way but they can access the task, watch the videos and complete their work in the exercise books we have made available for collection.

You will also need to access the 'how to log in to google classroom' document from the school homepage if you are unaware of your child's login details. Most children should know this as we regularly login at school. If you need help with this, then please contact the school office and ask for a call back from our technical support team.

Increasing data allowance on a mobile device: the Government has launched a scheme to temporarily increase data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is to support those children accessing remote education via a mobile phone. If your child is having difficulty accessing their learning due to lack of mobile phone data and do not have a fixed broadband at home, then please contact the school office.

Children of critical workers attending school

As the week has progressed there has been a rise in the number of families requesting a place for their child. As previously stated this provision is there to support families who have no other option for childcare. Should the number of pupils attending school continue to rise then we may need to consider prioritising applications, as we must ensure that we have the staffing capacity to deliver a high quality remote learning form of provision.

Free school meals

For children registered for free school meals, food parcels have been distributed to families whose children are staying at home (if they have requested one). The Government are in the process of ensuring that a national voucher scheme is put in place and as soon as there is an update in relation to this, we will communicate this with you. In the interim please contact St Margaret's or email afrost@northamfederation.devon.sch.uk to order a food parcel. Food parcels will be available to collect between 10:30am and 11:30am on Monday morning.

School contact

Please contact us using the details at the top of this letter. Please note that throughout next week the St. George's office will be staffed between 08:30 and 13:00 and the St. Margaret's office will be staffed between 08:30 and 16:00. If you are parent of a pupil at St. George's and wish to make contact after 13:00, then please call the St. Margaret's office. We are here to help!

I hope that you enjoy the week-end.

Best wishes,

Jim Williams (Executive Headteacher)

