



Wivelsfield Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs H Smith BA Hons NPQH

8th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to Wednesday's letter about remote learning I am pleased to be able to give you more information.

Firstly though, Ms Meade and I would like to thank all the teachers and support staff for their absolute dedication and professionalism throughout the whole pandemic, and in particular this week: in just a couple of days, with no notice, teachers have sorted remote learning for those not attending school as well as working with children in their classes. I have received a lot of positive feedback from parents about the quality of the remote work set, and especially the amount of personalisation within it.

Priority Children

I understand that there is some confusion and frustration from a few parents about the number of children who are in school, and how we made any decision about who was eligible for a place and who was not. Ms Meade and I spent most of the day Tuesday looking at each application, so please be assured that each 'priority child' in school is either vulnerable or the child of a critical worker, as defined by the government's criteria. The government's list of critical workers has increased from the lockdown in March, and beyond that, many parents chose not to send their children to school then, even if they were entitled to. This pattern of more uptake is replicated in schools both locally and nationally. The criteria for children to be entitled to attend school is unlikely to change for a few weeks yet, but we will let you know as soon as it does.

I am also getting information that some parents feel children in school are having different lessons to those at home and benefit from personalised teaching, or conversely, that we are merely offering child care in school. Please may I assure you that the lessons at school mirror the learning sent home.

Laptops and other technical issues around home learning

A few parents have requested school laptops. We will get these ready for collection as soon as possible next week. Please don't feel it is too late to request one - just get in touch with the school office.

Another potential barrier to home learning may be the data usage. If this is a problem for your family there is support available via the school if you:



- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for devices

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/internet-access>

Please contact the school if you feel we can help you with this.

Remote Learning - further information

Below is information from Ms Meade about remote learning following a meeting she held with teachers yesterday:

As we draw to the end of the first week of Remote Online Learning, we want to thank you for all that you have done to support your children at home. We recognise that this lockdown in the winter months feels somewhat harder and bleaker than the first one and many of you are under additional pressures in these testing times.

The teaching staff had a remote teams meeting together on Thursday to reflect on the successes of remote learning so far, share good practice, but more importantly, find solutions to how we can make our remote learning provision even better from feedback that we have had.

Clarification on Remote Learning on Google Classroom

- There will be a summary overview of the week released on Monday each week (teachers may where possible include links to the upcoming work, but please be aware that teachers are having to adapt all of their planning as they go so this might not always be possible)
- Teachers will upload the work as 'Days', and within those days, would be for example, Maths, English, Handwriting and History. The day will become available on the 'day', but no deadline will be set on the day so children can complete the work at a time that suits them.
- Assignments set will not have a 'deadline' to reduce anxiety for children and parents
- Assignments will be set as 'ungraded' but work can be 'returned with feedback'. The 'grading' on google classroom does not support teachers in their role or how we assess learning when teaching, so we will not be adopting this.
- Teachers and staff will try to feedback on as many pieces of learning as possible, but it might not be possible to feedback on every piece with our teaching commitments and preparation of online material
- We may use Oak National Academy to support learning of foundation subjects/assemblies we may wish to share
- Children will be encouraged to share each week 1 x piece of English, 1 x piece of maths and 1 x another subject through Google Classroom (but they can email it too). We are not expecting work to be uploaded every day, unless the child/family wish to.
- Please can learning you may wish to share be submitted with the 'assignment' as work 'turned in'.
- Worked 'turned in' could be a photo, a comment about what your child did/achieved or an attached document.
- We are exploring the use of 'Google Meets' and 'Google Hangouts' to provide contact with class teacher and friends once or twice a week during school hours. We will update you when we are ready to start this. In the meantime, a member of staff, who your child knows well, will be phoning next week or early the following week to say hello and catch up with them .

Contacting the teachers

The premise of Google Classroom is that it is a platform where learning can be shared and feedback can be provided.

- Parents/carers are reminded to email the class teacher if they have any queries that they need help with, as we do not receive notifications for Google Classroom and important queries/questions/messages might easily be missed
- Teachers will be available to respond to email/Google Classroom during their normal working hours, but this will mainly be in the afternoons
- For children not in school, they will receive a wellbeing phone call once a week from a member of staff (not necessarily the child's class teacher), but families are encouraged to email the teacher should they need any assistance.

Reading Book/Collecting equipment Rota

Please ensure return books go into the return box for your year group so that we can quarantine these books.

Monday – Robins

Tuesday – Hedgehogs

Wednesday – Rabbits

Thursday – Foxes and Otters

Friday – Badgers and Owls

Collecting Printed Work

Please only request printed copies if it is absolutely essential. You will be notified by the school office or class teacher when work is ready to collect.

Workbooks

All children will be provided with a CGP workbook (except for Robins) to help them with their learning, in addition to the online learning provided. We hope these will be with us some next week and you will be notified when these have arrived so you are able to come and collect them.

From all the staff at Wivelsfield, thank you for your ongoing support.

I hope the winter sunshine of today continues throughout the weekend so we can all get out to enjoy our one session of exercise allowed.

Keep safe and well.

Kind regards,

Helen M. Smith

Helen Smith
Headteacher

