



Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

Re: ONLINE LEARNING

We find ourselves, again, at home teaching our own children for some or all of the time. This is not to be sniffed at – my own sons are far more challenging to teach than all my classes. I just wanted to outline to you what to expect as things have evolved a little since first lockdown. We hope that our online learning offer supports all families to make the best of a difficult situation.

All learning is online from today. For Years 5 and 6, we were not expecting this to happen so quickly, so it may take a day or two to get the week's offer complete but there is learning there to start with. All learning is pushed through the parent SIMS App (or www.sims-parent.co.uk) for you to see and also accessible through the student SIMS App (or at www.sims-student.co.uk). Students need to sign in using the Microsoft windows option and then sign in using their school email address and password. Students need to check their school email frequently and also open their Teams for invitations to live learning sessions.

Log-on help:

Please email the office for support with forgotten passwords or log-ons and we are always inundated so a little patience will be required! Your child will have recorded passwords and log-ons in their Home Link Book and it would help us greatly if you start there. We find when they have chosen to change a password (and then forgotten it without recording it) this tends to cause us issues. We can help with a re-set: office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

What to expect:

We will provide a mixture of live Teams lessons in their usual timetabled subject slots by your child's teachers, pre-recorded (by us) video lessons, video lessons from other sources and independent work away from the screen. We will place each weekly offer up and we ask you to ensure that English, maths, science, French/Spanish, history and geography are always done. We invite students to do more if they can and want to. Please encourage your child to follow their timetable for structure.

We appreciate that every family differs in the situation at home, broadband width and the ability/confidence to support learning. My Year 9 son's maths is beyond me and I rely on his older brothers to support him. I am openly mocked in my family for this. Please do not let learning become detrimental to anyone's wellbeing. Email your child's tutor or year leader if you need some help or support. We are very happy to help and clarify things, as you know.

Please do appreciate that as I write, we have multiple teachers ill with Covid and unable to set learning or respond to email quickly. We will take hold of these issues centrally but the ongoing Covid situation is challenging and may prevent us from offering all the live Teams sessions that we would like to; we do appreciate that students love the Teams live lessons and we already have fabulous feedback about French and Spanish Teams sessions for Years 7 and 8 yesterday. Any children in school will do exactly the same online learning as the children at home.

Devices:

We have worked hard to provide laptops to all our Pupil Premium families who need them. If you are a Year 5 PP family now needing a device, please contact Mrs Hancock:

hhancock@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

Mrs Hancock is always super-helpful and is there to support all our PP families – do get in touch.

Free School Meals:

If you have children in Year 5 or 6 and are in receipt of Free School Meals, you will now receive a supermarket voucher as soon as is humanly possible this week, along with our older children. This does not apply to any students who are attending school and having a hot meal.

Finally, there will be a member of the leadership team on site at all times in school hours, so do telephone in if you have a query going unanswered. I hope we have made learning at home smooth for you but beware them telling you they are finished very quickly or that it was easy!

Best wishes,



Mrs Saira Sawtell
Headteacher

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