



Nene Way  
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[www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk)



Mrs Theresa Thornton  
Headteacher  
Mrs Emma Verney-Davies  
Deputy Headteacher  
Mrs Gemma Edwards  
Assistant Headteacher

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am now able to write to you to offer further clarification on the remote learning provision now being provided for all pupils at Wheatfields who do not fall into our Critical worker and vulnerable pupil group. As mentioned in previous correspondence from the school, our remote learning provision will continue to utilise the learning platforms that were so successful for us during the last lockdown period. These platforms are familiar to both our staff and pupils.

I would like to offer some reassurance to parents about our expectations of children at home. It is very difficult for us to ensure the balance is right between expectations for remote learning set out by the Government (4 hours KS2 and 3 hours KS1) and the individual needs of all our families. Learning from home will be an entirely different experience for each and every family. We recognise this completely and we will work with each family individually to ensure they feel as supported as possible during these difficult times.

We would like all parents to understand that remote learning differs this year to last year insofar as it is an expectation for pupils to access remote learning, as they would usually be expected to attend school. Our offer is more robust than last time, in line with government guidelines, but our support and understanding of the need for flexibility remains.

Our remote learning for each year group can be found on our website using this link  
[https://www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk/website/year\\_group\\_remote\\_learning/530945](https://www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk/website/year_group_remote_learning/530945)

Please contact your class teachers in the first instance if you have any concerns about the learning expectations, I feel certain they will be able to provide you with the reassurance you require. It is not necessary for parents to email the school office detailing their working patterns or home timetable situation because we understand that all families will need to make a timetable to suit them and their family circumstances.

### **Our remote learning provision:**

As you will be aware, schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning. This provision has now been stepped up and is a full scale package for pupil education and as such is compulsory. Our remote learning provision has been developed with our pupils and their families in mind, taking into account feedback and the experience of pupils and staff to date. We believe that this strategy works best for the children at our school.

The details in this letter also aim to ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for pupils who are not in school and set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning.





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### Teacher expectations:

- When providing remote learning for forced closure, teachers must be available between 8.30am and 4pm.
- If they are unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependent, they should report this using the normal absence procedure.
- Tapestry posts will be scheduled with links to the learning for EYFS
- Years 1 – 6 will set work and provide marking and feedback using google classroom.
- All teachers will remain in contact with parents via class emails and weekly phone calls.
- Plans and resources will be uploaded onto our school website on Friday evening to afford parents an opportunity to view them before the next week and Monday's registration.

### Pupil expectations:

- Staff can expect pupils learning remotely to be contactable during the school day, although it is recognised they will not always be in front of a device the entire time.
- Complete work to the deadline set by teachers.
- Seek help from the class teacher in the first instance if they need it. Alert teachers or teaching assistants via Tapestry, google classroom or the class email.

### Parent expectations:

Make the school aware if their child is ill or otherwise can't complete work, by email to the school office.  
Be respectful when making any complaints or concerns known to staff.  
Provide support for your children by:

- establishing routines and expectations
- defining a space for your child to work in
- monitoring communications from teachers
- beginning and ending each day with a check-in
- taking an active role in helping your children process their learning
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
- checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- keeping your children social but setting rules around their social media interactions.
- seeking out and communicating with school staff as different needs arise.

### Establishing routines:

In between the remote lessons, it is important that pupils get up and move around. From the first day you will need to establish routines and expectations. It is important that you set these expectations as soon as distance learning is implemented, not several days later after it becomes apparent a child is struggling with the absence of routine.





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### Wellbeing:

Being confined to home for an extended period of time can cause stress and conflict. Tips for looking after your children during isolation include:

- Talking to your whole family about what is happening. Understanding the situation will reduce their anxiety.
- Help your children to think about how they have coped with difficult situations in the past and reassure them that they will cope with this situation too. Remind them that the isolation won't last for long.
- Exercise regularly. Options could include exercise DVDs, dancing, floor exercises, yoga, walking around the garden or using home exercise equipment, such as a stationary bicycle, if you have it. Exercise is a proven treatment for stress and depression.
- Encourage your children to keep in touch with family members and friends via telephone, email or social media (where appropriate).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff at Wheatfields for the amazing efforts they are making to ensure calm continuity within school. I feel happy that we have done all we can as a school and this is thanks to the hard work and efforts of our staff and our supportive community. A special thank you to our to our office staff for managing with the enormously increased administrative workload.

Lastly, once again I thank the parents and carers for your unwavering support at this challenging time. We will give you more information about remote learning as our experience progresses. We will continue to take on board your feedback and comments to improve our provision as much as we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Theresa Thornton  
Headteacher

