

‘Achieving Excellence through Leadership’

GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL

Telephone: 01438 353374 email: admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk Website: www.gilesjm.herts.sch.uk



Headteacher: Miss. L. Whitby

Friday, 18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Distance learning

I am sure everyone would agree that we learned to learn during lockdown! With many children and families wanting their child to continue learning during the school's closure we had to quickly find a way to meet the needs of lots of learners who were not in front of a class teacher.

Having completed a survey to find out the best way we can meet your needs should your child not be at school for a period of time we would like to clarify what we can offer in terms of learning while your child is off school.

We are aware that COVID testing is not widely available (even for staff) and this means that pupils are often having to isolate as advised with the rest of the household for up to 14 days. We want to support your child's learning in the best way to reduce stress for families while also considering the workload of the class teacher who may well be teaching full time.

From a survey of 241 parents we found that:

- 33% of pupils have access to a laptop to complete home learning
- 75% of pupils have access to a tablet
- 60% of families said they would require a printed work booklet to accompany any learning set

Due to this information we have decided to have a blended approach offering tasks which are able to be emailed individually or posted on the website when larger groups are affected. Please see below for what will be offered in this range of situations. There will be no need to print work books as the work can be viewed on a device and completed in the work book. Where families don't have any device on which to view the information school will make individual arrangements as required.

Scenario 1 - Self-isolating and child is unwell

We do not expect work to be completed if a child is unwell.



Scenario 2 - Self-isolating as required due to showing a symptom or someone in the household showing a symptom and awaiting a result (or trying to get a test) but the child is well

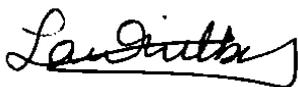
Class teacher will email work which is in line with what has been set in class. This can be completed on paper/exercise book – there is no need to print this out. We shall be issuing a lined exercise book to all families to have on hand should this be needed. Upon return to school teachers will review this learning and use it to assess if the child needs further support as part of usual formative assessment procedures.

Scenario 3 - A class or year group are isolating- The teacher will work from home to deliver learning in a way which suits our families

- Teachers will work in year teams to develop slides (which are prepared as part of their planning in school) for Maths, English and foundation subjects (one per day)
- Each day the class will be able to access these slides with audio support from a teacher within that year group. This will provide advice/support. Pupils can view this on a tablet or phone and complete the learning in an exercise book which will be reviewed when they return to school.
- Children who have significant needs will have differentiated work available and this will be emailed directly to follow their plan and delivered in a similar way
- The slides prepared become the bespoke “work book” which should not need printing unless there is no way it can be accessed on a laptop, tablet or phone.
- Families with no internet access will be provided with printed versions of the workbook.
- All these materials will be uploaded to YouTube and posted on our school website for parents to access.
- Individual class teachers will arrange an online opportunity each week at a designated time for pupils to join and interact with their class mates – this will serve as an opportunity to share their best piece of learning.

Please make sure the office has a contact email on record for you where any information can be emailed directly in the cases of individuals isolating.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Louise Whitby
Headteacher