

14th January 2021

Dear parents/carers

It seems from chatting to parents or from recent emails, that we are all settling into a routine of remote learning. We (parent/carers and school staff) should all be very proud of ourselves for the tremendous work we have all put in to learn new technologies and adapt to this very different way of teaching and learning – we are quite a TEAM! I am particularly proud of the children for having a good go at their on-line tasks, and their determination to understand the teaching in this different format and persevering with the technology. Well done too for getting up early each day/staying in a routine and engaging with recorded and live lessons.

I thought it would be useful today to answer a few questions that have popped into my email box, as these could support more than the one family that may have asked.

Length of each lesson:

The sessions we are uploading would normally fill a 1 hour to 1 ¼ hour lesson at school for the majority of the class. All children however, are individual and some tasks are more challenging for some children than others. We therefore request, as at school, that children spend an hour on the sessions and then stop, upload the work or move on. We certainly do not want to cause tension at home. Thank you.

Feedback:

For assignment tasks, the teachers will look through the uploaded work and make an individual comment when necessary. Please look back at these assignments as it may take a few days for any comment to appear. We appreciate that children are completing other work in books so we may not always be able to comment on this work. As you can appreciate, teachers are planning lessons, creating on-line resources, speaking to families, teaching children in school and continuing to work on all other areas of school life too, so their acknowledgment of children's work may take a few days to come through.

Timetable:

We appreciate that each of our households runs to its own routine and if, as when my children were little, you are up at the crack of dawn and the children are raring to go, it may be of benefit for you to save a session from the day before and complete it before the 8.50 am upload of that day's lessons. It will not matter when you attempt the work, it is just important that the children attempt all work in sequence as this will support their learning and understanding. But, for example, going back to my own children, I may have saved the foundation subject work, such as geography, Science or art from the day before, for the early morning and then got my children to do the Maths and English for that day afterwards. With this scenario, all the work is eventually completed but working to a timetable that is best for my circumstances and family. Assignments could be marked a day or two later than set, so your child's work will still be seen and commented on.

Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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Assembly:

Tomorrow, I will be attempting our first whole-school assembly at 11.45 am but do not worry if you do not get to it. I will be updating the children on anything since the holidays and reading a story. Fingers crossed it all works. Please remember that because it is a live session, the children should join with cameras off and microphones off too. It would be lovely if we can all give each other a wave at some point so please be aware of what is in the background, thank you. It will not be compulsory to do this, so please don't worry if you would rather your child didn't switch their camera on.

Support with work:

As per the government guidance, it is not our expectation for you to have to support your child with the tasks. We thank many of you that do and I have attached the Calculation Policy which explains maths methods should you want to take a look. The main point to remember though, is that many of the sessions are one in a sequence of lessons and so the children should do the previous sessions before attempting the next one. It is also handy to go back to sessions if a child is unsure of something as the previous learning is all there. Thank you.

Technical questions:

The number of technical questions we have received in the last day or so has reduced – well done everyone for your dedication to grasp a new platform 😊. I was going to send a trouble-shooting sheet but have not received any queries to answer. We are however, still going to hold a virtual tech session next Tuesday morning (when our IT technician is in school) to support anyone who needs help. Please email the school if you would like an invite to this session, thank you.

Kind regards



Tracey Hart
Headteacher

