

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Further to my email last night, my team have been working incredibly hard to set up remote learning for children in Years 5 and 6 with staff contacting parents/ carers to support their children to access their remote learning from home. Our preference is for all children to be in school so we can provide face-to-face education however, in light of another national lockdown period, not only have staff to support the learning of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers on site but they also have to deliver remote learning to all children at home.

As a result of my team's hard work and efforts, from first thing this morning, we were able to set up remote learning for all children across the school, trouble-shooting any technical issues parents/ carers were experiencing to facilitate their child's access to resources. The learning our children will engage in this term is in line with their learning journeys for the spring term to support their continued progress in learning. This is still a very new way of delivering lessons for us all but we are all learning new skills as we look forward to introducing our children to the amazing functions available on the ITS Learning Platform, in the weeks ahead. In addition, we, as a school, have submitted an order for additional laptops from the Department for Education to further support some of our families in need of resources.

From this week, we will resume making weekly phone calls throughout the national lockdown period to all families, providing additional support for all our children. Furthermore, in order for these live lessons to be as effective as possible, it is essential that parents/carers ensure all children adhere to the following expectations:

- Join all lessons with microphones muted and cameras turned off
- Put up 'yellow hand' if they need to ask a question or say something to the teacher. All communication in the live lesson needs to go through the teacher in this way. Pupils must not use the message function at all to communicate with one another. These messages are instantly sent to all members of staff in school, so are only to be used by pupils who do not have a microphone to feedback to the teacher.
- Bring in own headphones every day (wherever possible) – **for pupils working in school.**

Please also see below the guidance from Dorset Council on virtual learning.

It is parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure that:

- Their child is in a public area of the house
- Their child is appropriately dressed
- Their child is not alone in a bedroom. If this is not the case, the child must be asked to move to another part of the home or if the parent is staying with their child they can remain where they are for the duration of the live lesson

In addition, to facilitate smoother transitions between lessons, we are slightly adjusting the timetable to enable pupils and staff to move from one Its Learning session to another, allowing everyone time to finish one lesson, with a short brain break, before getting everything ready for the next.

Timetable of the Day for Remote Learning

8:30	Registration with tutor
9.00 – 9.45	Lesson 1
9.45 – 10.00	Break
10.00 – 10.45	Lesson 2
10.45 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 11.45	Lesson 3
11.45 – 12.00	Break
12.00 – 12.45	Lesson 4
12.45 – 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 2.45	Lesson 5
2.45 – 3.00	Break
3.00	Tutor Time on Tues and Thurs and Whole School Assembly in Its Learning on Mon, Weds and Friday (Celebration Assembly)

On receipt of this letter, when your child joins the live session tomorrow, you are consenting to the Remote Learning support we are providing, and agreeing to the safeguarding procedures outlined above, reporting any concerns to your child's class teacher.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication over the past few weeks, supporting your children's learning during this very challenging time. Juggling work, childcare and home learning means many changes for all of us, so that we can all be healthy, stay safe and make sure our children are continuing to learn. Thank you for all your support in our school community.

Warm Regards,



Dr Deborah Craddock