

Dear Parents/Carers

I can scarcely believe, only just over a week ago we were starting the new term, only to be told, less than twelve hours later, that schools were to 'close' to the majority of children and remote learning would begin once more!

The messages of kindness, support and thanks that we have received have really given us a boost and your acknowledgment of how hard this is for us means more than you will ever know.

We want to thank you now. We know that, unlike back in March when many of you were furloughed or the expectations for working outcomes were lessened, many of you are now continuing to fulfil the demands of your own job as well as having your children at home. This is far from ideal. Children of primary age will not be able to be left to learn, whatever model for remote learning the school are using, and your support for them will have to be juggled with your own work commitments. We do not envy your position.

The work submitted over the course of last week, the feedback via emails, Tapestry and Class Dojos and the engagement of children must be applauded. Children have learned new skills, new concepts and made progress across the week. That would not be possible without your input and support and for that we are very grateful.

I know that the next five weeks may feel as though they are stretching out in front of you and, like us, you will be wondering if this situation will last beyond half term. I thought it would be helpful to address some questions you may have about home learning but wish to emphasise that we are not static and will be constantly reflecting on and refining the approach to ensure the very best learning outcomes for your children.

How many Key Worker and vulnerable children are there in school and what does provision for them look like? We currently have up to seven children each day.

The children in school are completing exactly the same tasks and activities that are being accessed by the children at home (the exception being Forest School.)

The government expectations around remote learning provision are very clear and there should be as much consistency as possible between the learning at home and in school.

Will you be offering daily live teaching sessions?

The remote learning that we have been able to offer during this lockdown has been enhanced and I am proud of the learning and support we have been able to offer. The teachers have worked exceptionally hard, above and beyond their 'normal' duties. We have chosen to support your child's learning with remote learning set via Class Dojo or sent out in weekly packs if required. Other schools have chosen different approaches.

One approach, which we considered very carefully, and decided against, was the daily live streaming of lessons taught by our teachers. We decided against this as it focused predominately on methods that do not guarantee the safeguarding of the children or our staff.

Our children are in receipt of 'live lessons' through the DFE endorsed Oak Academy, BBC and White Rose links.

Our staff will also make and provide videos of their own for certain subjects and all classes will have a daily story read by their teacher.

We also believe the delivery of live lessons puts a significant amount of pressure (and stress) on you as parents,

1. to be online at a certain time, otherwise the lesson is missed, (it cannot be recorded for GDPR reasons)
2. to be present with children during the lesson, to ensure your child is engaged while the teacher is 'streaming' and to offer support to your child if something goes wrong
3. to manage the technology of a live stream
4. to ensure sufficient laptops/computers/IPads are available to meet the multiple lessons, for multiple children, occurring at the same time. It has been widely publicised that the government have provided laptops and devices for schools – our allocation was two devices which won't go very far!
5. to ensure you have sufficient broadband / mobile data to enable this multiple streaming lesson to happen.

Interestingly, a recent study by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which provides research-based advisements to Educators, suggests a move away from live lessons.

Finally

The Government have instructed us to provide **three hours** of learning for Years 1 and 2 and **four hours** for Years 3-6. Early Years timings are more flexible.

Teachers keep a record daily of tasks set and completed for each child (like a register). If your child is completing no or very little work the teacher will call you to find out why this is and how we can support you and your child. If children don't take advantage of the learning being provided there is a high chance that they will fall behind and find it difficult to catch up on their return to school.

We recognise that homes are not schools. The skill of teaching is cultivating a relationship through the face-to-face interaction between the teacher and the pupil; we are trying as best we can to replicate this in a remote way.

This can only be achieved with your partnership and support. Like you, we are learning and adapting. Things will go wrong; the internet will go down, work may take time to upload etc. but please be patient.

If it becomes stressful, challenging or a battle, then re-adjust what you do to meet the needs of your child and your family. This could be when your own 'working from home' has concluded. We have

shared “suggested” timetables but do what works for your family. We believe the approach we have taken provides the flexibility to undertake learning when it is appropriate for your family and accommodates the many different family groups we have along with the varying amounts of technology and devices you have.

Thank you for understanding that we truly are trying to do our best for everyone right now.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Farnan