



Headteacher: Mr P. A. Swift

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Russell

20th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope, in these uncertain times, that this letter finds you and your families well and I would urge you to contact us if you are experiencing any difficulties and need advice or support.

The vast majority of pupils are accessing SeeSaw daily and we have provided devices and data where they have been requested. We will continue to respond to your requests where we can. We know that none of this is ideal and we are thankful for your patience and understanding. As we have had questions from families via email, I thought it would be helpful to share the answers with our whole school community. Please be assured that we are constantly reviewing provision and from the many lovely comments we have received, it is clear that this hasn't gone unnoticed. Indeed, almost every area of school life has changed (again) and we are constantly adapting. Next week, we will begin a 'rapid test' programme for all school staff using home testing kits and the government have reintroduced food vouchers so we will no longer be providing weekly food parcels for eligible families.

Remote Learning

As you are aware, in-school learning mirrors our remote learning (enabling some children to attend only when absolutely necessary) and staff have been working collaboratively to ensure that both the children at home and those in school are following the same curriculum.

Ofsted have produced some information about what is working well in remote education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

The evidence confirms that the belief that live lessons are always the best approach to effective learning is incorrect. Whilst live lessons may be appropriate for high school aged pupils (given their greater independence) they do not allow the children to pause, rewind and listen again. However, this is something we can offer through SeeSaw, together with the facility to contact a teacher and receive individual support.

For those parents who have been enquiring about live teaching, please understand it is not always the most productive answer. The video lessons and ongoing communication with teachers, is an equally strong method of teaching and learning. Please also understand that live learning is not about children's interaction as microphones are on silent and videos are off. There are other issues to consider with live teaching, such as the limited number of

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electronic devices in each household; stability of home Wi-Fi and the very real safeguarding issues that arise.

Furthermore, some pupils are engaging with their remote learning later in the day or even at the weekend due to home circumstances. This is absolutely fine and is one of the positives of the approach that we have taken, ie, pupils and parents have flexibility around when they engage with the learning if required. To help further, lesson content will be available from 8:00am (starting next week) but the 'school day' will only start at 9:00am.

We are also in the process of setting up opportunities for pupils to 'meet up' virtually with a teacher, once we have the technology, permissions and systems in place. Further details will be made available as soon as possible. Again, we appreciate that many families will be unable to commit to a regular time slot and you will remember that our virtual Parents' Evenings were sometimes hindered by poor connectivity. Please bear with us as we are determined to keep improving our provision, but realistically, we know that we can't meet the requests of every family as everyone's circumstances are so different.

Thank you

A final thank you for the many emails, Seesaw messages and telephone calls offering thanks and support. We appreciate your feedback, flexibility and that you are giving our systems a chance to work and you recognise we are trying our best.

As always, take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. A. Swift
Headteacher