



Thursday 4th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As promised, I am writing to update you on remote learning and changes which are happening from this week. They reflect feedback from the parent/ carer questionnaire as well as evaluation by the senior leadership team with the teachers delivering the online lessons.

In this letter, I will be covering subject focus, feedback on engagement and motivation, a pupil and teacher engagement day (Thursday, 11th February), resources, mental health and book weeks and technical support.

First, I want to ask for your help. We are nearing half term and children are tiring. We are seeing increasing lateness for sessions, cameras switched off and children not answering questions. If you think this may be happening in your household, we would be grateful if you could check in every now and then and remind children that the camera should be on. Teachers are also monitoring this and will be reminding children that they should be 'present' during live sessions, so please email us if you have technical or other issues and they can make allowances. Teachers will continue to use a range of strategies to keep children engaged, on task and behaving appropriately and your support for them in this is greatly appreciated.

Subject focus

- In the mornings, we will continue to focus on the crucial core subjects – phonics, reading, writing and maths, as appropriate for respective year groups
- Children should read - or be read to - every day. (See below for reading resources).
- Other foundation subjects are being taught where it works remotely. Subjects that require resources or a hands-on approach, including design and technology and practical science, will be a focus for catch-up when we return to school
- French and music lessons are timetabled each week and your child's teacher(s) will confirm when. French is pre-recorded video by our French teachers and Mr Tang is delivering live lessons. (If Mr Tang is not available, music will be replaced by a foundation subject lesson.)
- Mondays at 3pm, children in year 1 to year 6 need to log on for either Philosophy for Children (P4C) or Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education.

Feedback, engagement and motivation

- Children in Y1-Y6 are now being asked to submit English work. Please ask your children to listen out for specific requests to submit work. The final extended writing at the end of each unit will always be submitted and should be sent on time, so feedback can be provided
- Teachers will continue to build in opportunities for children to stretch and have mini-breaks.
- We are also introducing small quizzes, games and variation at the end of the day to help engagement and motivation.



Resourcing

- New exercise books for English are available in the school office if your child needs another.
- Parklands Primary in Leeds have kindly shared a fantastic story-telling, interactive library with a range of lovely books to choose from (suitable for Reception to Year 6).
<https://www.parklandsprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VirtualLibrary-Parklands.pdf>
- We have heard about some families swapping books, and love the idea! However, if you don't have enough to read please talk to the class teacher and we can arrange books through school

Pupil and Teacher engagement day (reception to Y6)

[please note, this is for children and teachers only – it is not a parent/teacher meeting]

- Next Thursday (11th February), there will be no remote learning; children will be asked to work independently on any outstanding tasks.
- Reception will run small group activities with a short phonics session. There will not be individual sessions in Reception. Daily activities will be uploaded for the day.
- Teachers will timetable 10 minute appointments for each of the children in their class. Please support your child(ren) to attend their meeting on time. At the meeting:
 - Teachers will chat with the child to see how they are getting on with learning and may provide advice and tips
 - They will ask the child to read from their book and to show their reading record (please make sure your child has these ready for the session)
 - The teacher may talk to the child about other subject such as maths, to help planning for next half term.

Mental Health Week and Book Week (Focus Weeks)

- This week (and spilling into next week), teachers will be talking to children about mental health as part of Mental Health Week. The theme is 'Express Yourself'.
- Book Week and World Book Day will go ahead from Monday 1st March. Mr McCann and the PSA are working to ensure the week remains an exciting celebration of reading. Please look out for an email from Mr McCann on this.

Technical Support and device issues

- Thank you for your patience in the various different issues, now mainly out of our control, that can impact on learning
- Mr Tang continues to be available to support children and families with technology issues

Finally, I understand that remote learning continues to provide a variety of challenges for families and I want to assure that I don't underestimate this. All of us in the school community think you are doing a wonderful job.

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We dearly hope that we will all be back together again very soon but, in the meantime, thank you for your support! For our part, we will continue to develop the remote learning provision so that the impact on learning is minimised as much as possible and to keep the children engaged.

With warm wishes

Mr Richards
Headteacher