



Dear Parents,

7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

I would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation this week. It has been extremely challenging for the children, for the staff and for you as parents. The short notice of Lockdown has meant that staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that children both at home and those that are with us in school are accessing high quality learning. The DFE statutory guidance differs greatly from the first National Lockdown hence the difference in Remote Learning provision.

The children in school and at home will be covering as much of the same work as possible and we will be working hard to support all our children at home as much as we possibly can. There will be a Year group teacher online for the duration of each day to support your children with their learning. **We do not expect you to be able to work miracles any more than we can. Do what you can with home learning, do your best, encourage the children to do their best and do not cause yourself or your children upset about it.** When the children returned to school fully in September we were very successful at assessing where children were up to in their learning and addressing this through very focused teaching and catch-up strategies which your children all responded very well to making rapid progress as the Autumn term went on. We will do this again when we are able to be back enjoying face to face learning and fully re-open our school.

It remains, however, important for me to inform you that we still have exceptionally high numbers of critical worker children attending school. All medical advisers are clear that the safest place for children and families to be at present is **at home with as little social contact as possible**. If you are working at home or have any adult at home or in your childcare bubble who can care for your child, **they should not be coming in to school**. The most important thing is that we all stay safe and reduce the spread of this virus. The **“Stay at Home”** advice is to try and reduce numbers and through this, reduce the spread of this highly infectious new variant.

I would like to clarify some particular aspects of the Remote Learning that will enable us to ensure smooth running of the systems: -

**Zoom meetings** – Zoom meetings will take place daily at 9am. Please do not worry if your child is not able to access these sessions each day. These sessions are short assemblies – lesson content will be provided with videos or written instructions throughout each day. As teachers and pupils become more familiar with the daily routine additional opportunities to meet with teachers over Zoom will be made available. KS1 for example might have a story time session and KS2 might hold a quiz.

**Work packs** – A number of parents have asked for work packs. Whilst this can be provided for parents with particular difficulties, this takes some time to prepare and there will be a delay in posting these work packs out to you. More simply, many of the lesson resources are printable PDFs from Seesaw for you to print at home. Alternatively, activities can be completed on paper using the instructions or examples by the teacher for those that have more limited access to devices.

**Timetable guide** – the timetable that has been set for each year group reflects the rigour and detail that the DFE expect school to now provide for this most recent Lockdown. I understand that this looks a lot to manage, particularly for parents with more than one child who is also trying to work at home. Please use it flexibly if that works better for your family and do what you can. A focus on English and Maths is the most important as well as enjoying some PE time.

**Seesaw activities** – Staff will upload work in morning and afternoon blocks so that children can have a flexible approach based on the demands of life currently in each home. Staff are unable to upload a weeks' worth of work at the start of each week as this would be unmanageable for staff to prepare across a weekend and would also make families at home feel overwhelmed with the amount of tasks available.

**Spare devices** – A number of families may have very limited access to devices for Remote Learning. We have small number of devices for use at home during this time. If you have no device for your child to use at home, please contact the school office to explore if we can assist with this.

Again, may I say a very big thank you for your patience whilst we embrace new systems and get Remote Learning with the use of technology operating effectively. We really appreciate the many messages of support and understanding.

Kind regards,

**Mrs Arnold**  
**Headteacher**