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Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to share the school's commitment to you and your children during this very difficult period. Last week, I felt that we had started to settle into a pattern of working after a sudden reorientation following the school closure on January 4<sup>th</sup>. It has been incredibly busy in school to establish the key worker Bubble (KWB) and remote learning in such a short space of time. However, the weekend has given a small opportunity for me to reflect where we are and the best way forward.

Firstly, on behalf of the school governors and staff I'd like to thank you all for your superb support. As educators and part of a learning community, we also have our own families, children, parents and grandparents. We genuinely empathize with you and the pressures and challenges you must be facing in your wider lives at the moment. What does the future look like for our children at school and those who are at home at the moment? There are many questions we just can't answer and it is definitely not easy being a young person or a parent at the moment. From a school staff perspective, our hearts sank, just a little bit, when we arrived at school and expected it to be fully open, but our amazing school community spirit lifted and motivated the whole team to do everything we can to educate all the children, provide remote learning and support families. It's times like this, our values come to the forefront of our school to guide, lift and motivate us: perseverance, friendship, thankfulness and wisdom (PFTW) and it is important to bring these values to mind. **Stepping forward together** is full of meaning and is very important for us as we move forward each day and each week throughout the pandemic and we do so together because every child and family is important to us.

It has been heartening for us to receive so many supportive emails/messages from so many parents and carers over the last week. Thank you. These really do have the power to help us, motivate us and shed light throughout the day. Please do continue to persevere; supporting, encouraging and helping your child to learn and to continue to make progress.

Staff are spending a lot of time in front of computers preparing lessons and it is lovely to receive some very good high quality work from the children both from home and the Key Worker Bubble (KWB).



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As a governing body, we have had to make some challenging decisions over the past couple of weeks in response to government directives and we will continue to develop and improve our remote learning offer. I do hope that you have felt well informed by the school. The written word is always difficult to get right, especially when government decisions have been made seemingly at the last minute. I also hope that our method of emailing and texting out to you, as soon as we possibly can, has suited your needs. We do listen out for your informal feedback but we will be asking for more formal feedback in the near future. Please do keep in touch with the school and let us know if you have a concern or a query. We are here to help and we will do all that we can to support your child's learning and the family throughout this period.

Here are some important updates regarding remote learning.

## **Remote learning**

We hope your child is able to log on and engage in the remote learning. If you have any queries, please contact your child's teachers in the first instance and please bear with us as we are continuing to set up and improve our ICT systems.

As a school, we have worked hard to make sure that all our children, at home and at the KWB, can access Tapestry (for the younger children) or Google Classroom. If you have a query about connecting to any of the school's systems, please contact the class teacher or the school office. Many families now have a 'smart' television, and it might be possible to access Google Classroom resources using the built-in browser that many of these TVs have. This might be useful if you have a limited number of devices and demand from a number of children. A cheap USB keyboard would make this even more feasible. In addition, and although we do not endorse the source, there is a useful tutorial on how to use a games console (X Box/Play Station) to access Google Classrooms: <https://ccyd.co.uk/learning-from-home-xbox-playstation> There are a number of similar tutorials on YouTube if you wish to attempt this!

Staff are in contact with the key worker children and the vulnerable children, on a daily basis and we will continue to teach and support these children in school. Wherever possible, we will continue to offer one to one and individual support to help children.

Our KWB provision is staffed by support staff as well as teachers. Teachers are concurrently planning and reviewing students' work as well as developing their on-line lessons. Support staff are also working on their core roles and a whole host of additional responsibilities related to helping and supporting the children. Going forward, if the demand for in-school provision goes beyond a threshold (and/or there are cases of illness/corona virus), the effect will be that the universal remote learning offer will be impacted and/or the KWB, as we will not be able to sustain the remote learning and KWB in the current set up.

## **Coronavirus testing in school Our planning**

The current government plans are to test staff in school from 25<sup>th</sup> January. To date, I have not seen any plans to test the children in school. I will write to you again as soon as any updated guidance is published.



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# Remote education provision: information for parents and carers

## The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

Your child's first few days of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching. We are developing lessons on a daily basis. Please follow the guidance and instructions from the class teacher.

Here are the answers to some of the questions you may be asking.

### Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

- It is our intention that children at home will receive broadly the same curriculum at home as they would have in school. Now the systems are in place, staff are working hard to achieve this. The KWB and children at home receive the same activities, lessons and learning opportunities. Our first priority was to establish access to Google Classroom and/or tapestry for all the children. Lessons have focused initially on Maths and Literacy and we are covering the other areas of the curriculum with the afternoon tasks and activities. We are also looking at the possibility of forwarding further links to additional lessons and resources linked to the BBC and the Oak Academy.

## Remote teaching and study time each day

### How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 1	3 hours a day on average. This is less for younger children.
Key Stage 2	4 hours a day on average.
Differentiation	Some children may have slightly longer with having further group work or one to one support.



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## Accessing remote education

### How will my child access the online remote education?

In early year's, online learning will take place through tapestry. Parents and staff are familiar with this and it has worked well in the past. Children in Key stage 1 and key stage 2 will access learning through Google Classroom.

### If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will we offer support to access remote education?

We are offering a range of blended learning through live streaming, recorded lessons through the Oak academy along with films and lessons from the internet such as the BBC bitesize lessons. Please get in touch with us if you require any help with accessing the learning on line.

### How will my child be taught remotely?

We are offering a range of resources and approaches to teach pupils remotely. This is because of the range of subjects and the age range of the pupils:

It is our intention to offer a range of learning materials to support your child's learning. These resources and our approaches involve the following:

- Registration – questions and quizzes
- Google Meet for classroom discussions, together time, early get togethers
- Activities and messages posted on Tapestry for the younger children
- Live teaching (online lessons)
- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Online Maths No Problem textbooks, phonics spellings and and reading books which the children have at home.
- Websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences of lessons
- Long-term project work and/or internet research activities

## Engagement and feedback

### What are the school's expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We understand that not all children will be able to access every lesson due to ICT difficulties and pressures of work at home with parents and children wanting to access the internet at the same time. However, we will attempt to provide resources to help all children in their learning each day and children should start the day with the same expectation that they are *going to* (attending) school.

The school's expectation is that:

- Children will log on and register each day of the working week. This may take the form of a question or a quiz. Or for older children, it could be, for example, a mental maths test or a more challenging question Class teachers have already set this up.
- The work that is set by the teacher is undertaken at the time set and specified by the teacher
- Children and parents will fully engage and support the teaching and lessons of the teacher
- Parents will contact the school office or let the class teacher know through google classroom/e mail/tapestry if their child is not able to participate in a particular lesson for any reason
- If for any reason the child cannot join in the lessons for a day, for example they are not well, the parents and carers should email the school to let us know that the child is absent for the day. Any illnesses and especially those relating to the corona virus, must be reported to the main school office
- Parents and carers will keep in touch with the school so that we can offer support and understand their individual circumstances.
- If parents and carers withdraw from the remote learning offer, there is an acknowledgement that the parents will assume full responsibility for home schooling
- Parents and carers will help in establishing routines to support the child's education

## How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

There will be many ways in which we support children in their learning and parents in helping and supporting the learning process. This is a complex situation and there will be days when things go wrong and the pieces of the jigsaws just won't fit together, despite our best efforts and the best efforts of you and the children. We are here to help and support, as it is important that your child continues to learn and make progress over the coming days and weeks. We continue to check that your child is engaging with their work and continuing to learn in the following ways:

- Through Google Meet and Tapestry for younger children
- Make contact on a daily basis
- At the start of the week, teachers will welcome the children to a new week and outline the overview and expectations for the week.
- Times for work to be complete and handed in for marking/checking
- On line test and quizzes, marking and feedback.
- The office will make contact to follow up any absences

## How will the teacher assess my child's work and progress?

Within the process of teaching and learning, we offer as much help and support as we can to all the children, so that they can do their best and achieve well. Teachers constantly assess the children's engagement in a lesson, their skills, ability, knowledge, understanding and their progress.

Performance feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole class discussion will be used to assess the children's understanding and their ability to respond to a question. Maths questions will be set and teachers will see how the children respond. In literacy, comprehension questions may be set to assess the child's understanding of a particular passage or chapter. Children may be asked to complete an activity, find out something and complete an investigation for a science learning focus. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Feedback is always to support the child and to develop learning
- Questions and quizzes may be used
- Individual, group and whole class discussion
- Response to mathematical questions and challenges
- Marking of work, particularly writing and Maths No Problem
- Response to challenges to read and find out information
- Response to science investigations, challenges and activities.
- Individual meetings/chats with children
- Online tests
- Meetings with parents and carers to check in to see how it is going

## Additional support for pupils with particular needs

### How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils, for example pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We do empathize and fully understand the stresses and difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils as best we can and in the following ways:

- Offer individual and dedicated support through our school office and online teacher support
- Offer 1:1 support at convenient times throughout the week and where this is beneficial
- Explain and differentiate tasks and activities so that they are accessible.

### In summary

The school will remain closed until we are directed to open by the local and national guidelines. All the children, whether they are at home or in the KWB, receive the same virtual lessons and work from the same time table. This is important as we do not want any children to fall behind. All children should have the same access to the curriculum. All children should have:

- A timetable
- A connection with the class teacher through Tapestry or Google Classroom used to set work, keep in touch and allow for feedback
- Further online and media resources such as BBC Bitesize, The Oak Academy and other interesting programmes relating to eg. History and Geography.

It is impossible to include everything in this letter but I hope this gives a good outline of our school's provision and online learning offer. Do contact the school if you have any concerns or questions. It is important that we do support your child's learning and that your child is able to make progress throughout this period. The staff and governors are very dedicated to providing the highest standards of education and we will do all that we can to help and support.

Yours sincerely,



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