

Newsletter

Friday 15th January 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the week, I am writing to update you of further developments in our blended learning provision. Also this week, Mrs Toshack has included a safeguarding newsletter with details of services, activities and planned events to support families and parents at this time. Our intent, as always, is to stay connected as a whole school community and to reach out to support each other through the challenges that the pandemic brings.

Laptops have arrived! These are for children who do not have access to a device at home for the purpose of remote learning. Mrs Edwards will contact you to come and collect from inside the pod at reception. There is a home/school agreement to accompany each laptop.

Many parents wish to keep their child at home and children have been accessing provision through remote learning. For parents who request a place in school, this is considered and reviewed on a weekly basis. For parents who are requesting a place we will try to offer this if we can and it is safe to do so. The number of staff able to work in school has impact on the number of children we can safely have in school.

Some further developments in our blended approach to remote learning

Our remote learning is a blended approach. This means children will have a combination of the following:

1. Pre-recorded sessions which they can access through the weekly menu on our website. Pre-recording enables children to engage when ready to learn and repeat some lessons to consolidate their learning
2. Live face to face sessions with their teacher and support staff
3. Bespoke activities, personalised for their individual learning needs, which include EHCP provision to achieve the outcomes of the EHC plan

It is important that children have some daily social interaction with their peers and teacher in order that they feel connected throughout the Lockdown. Teachers will check in with the class together through a 'virtual registration' and circle time session at the same time each morning. This will enable a routine for your child. This session allows teachers to support pupils to engage within their schedule of learning each day. It also enables teachers to gauge the 'zone of regulation' for pupil well-being and provide pastoral support to pupils each day.

Alongside our semi-formal learner stage menu, a second menu will shortly be added to the website for our more formal stage learners. Pupils can choose to access activities and sessions from both menus as appropriate to their learning stage and needs. A new menu will be added each week. Further curriculum subjects and range of activities will continue to be added to create a broad, relevant and rich curriculum.

Each subject area includes a series of learning to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding as the week progresses. Sessions will include pupil feedback, enabling ongoing teacher assessment. Each learning session will follow the same format and structure so that your child becomes familiar with this and learns to concentrate and engage at home, with increasing independence over time. Sessions will include explicit teaching and a visual approach, as important learning characteristics for our pupils with autism.

Our pre-formal children require a different pedagogy, suitable for their stage of development. Teachers will continue to use the structure of TEACCH for this group, if learning from home.

Pupils in key stage 4 will access a more bespoke package with live face to face sessions following their subject syllabus with their subject teachers.

Mr Spalding will be sending a short digital questionnaire to parents so we can gain your feedback on our remote learning offer. This feedback will enable us to refine and grow our remote learning package going forward, ensuring it is commensurate with the provision in school within a high quality first curriculum.

Teachers will contact parents at least weekly to check in and gain feedback, answer any questions and evaluate that the remote provision is meeting the individual needs of your child.

For children in school their daily routine and provision continues as usual, although they may also access some of the recorded sessions on the menu and will engage in virtual registration along with their peers at home. We have made good use of rooms and space available so that pupils can access break out spaces to the classroom allowing for further social distancing and smaller groups as appropriate.

Lastly, on behalf of the staff, thank you so much to parents for thinking of us and the teaching profession at this time, showing such appreciation in your card and the messages of support it contained. The lovely hamper of treats will be greatly enjoyed by staff and the balloon made us all smile!

I hope you enjoy the weekend and please do continue to contact school and your child's class teacher with any questions you may have or how we can support you further in any way.

Warm regards,



Mrs Laura Ives
(Principal)