



6th January 2021

Home Learning

Yesterday saw the first day of full home learning and overall it was a great success. Most of you will have done home learning in the last lockdown and may have mixed emotions about it.

Our remote learning offer is much more enhanced than last year and teachers are available throughout the day to support learning as well as doing live lessons. This will hopefully mean it is easier for you as parents. However, using Teams or Tapestry is a learning curve for us all – we will all get better at using it. The good news is that children from Year 3 have used it in school which is making the transition to home learning easier. However, home learning is not always easy. If you need any help, please get in touch with the school.

Having a good routine that works around family life, parents working and other children doing home learning is important which is why there is some flexibility in when you access each day's home learning.

We are also fully aware that some of our families have limited access to the internet and laptops. However, tablets and smartphones can also be used effectively for home learning in a lot of cases. You will hear more and more about laptops for home learning in the news and we will help where we can. We have a number of laptops that we will be able to give out to parents, but this will be based on a number of criteria in the first instance. It is also becoming clear that data allowances for mobiles and tablets for home learning will be increased. We will be in touch with you about this.

Microsoft Teams

After yesterday there are a number of updates for those of you who have children in Years 1 to 6 who are using Microsoft Teams.

- Teachers will schedule the live lessons in the calendar. Children will probably get an invite to the lesson and it will appear in their Teams Calendars. Click on this to join the lesson live.
- Children **should not** press the 'Meet' button, only the teacher should do this. We are looking at disabling the button for children.
- Recordings of live lessons will appear in the General chat for the class, however teachers will also upload it separately into the chat, but it does take a while to upload (I think the whole country is using Teams today!)
- The deadline for work will be set for a week. This doesn't mean there is a week to do the work, but it means it won't be late if you do it a day late due to other commitments.
- As we expect all children to be doing remote learning, any children not doing it should expect a phone call from the class teacher in the first instance to find out why.



- Please remind your children that when using the 'Chat' facility in Teams that this is for work purposes not to post photos / emojis or chat to friends. If children want to ask the teachers individual questions they can contact them through 'Chat' on the left hand side of the screen.
- Please keep an eye on your child when online and make sure they are being responsible. I'm sure the children will be, but we will monitor it too.
- Please bear with it if things don't always go to plan or some of the live lessons don't always appear when you expect them to. If you need to speak to the teacher please don't do it on a live lesson, contact the school office or message the teacher via Teams.

Finally, can I thank all parents for their ongoing support. A lot is being asked of you, but together we will get there.



Mr S Bowsher
Headteacher

