

# Welford on Avon Primary School

## 15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a very challenging two weeks following the Government's decision about schools. As parents, you may have needed to change your work patterns to oversee your child's home learning and as teachers, swapping back to remote learning was an unexpected turnaround with us being prepared to open fully for all pupils.

However, we are beginning to settle into the 'new normal' and adjust to the revised routines of our school day.

### Learning during Lockdown

School expectations are different to the last lockdown and we all have a responsibility to try and make sure that children do not miss out on learning. Welford School has opted for a blended learning approach, with a combination of live lessons and uploaded resources.

**The school is still operational and the school hours remain the same** with the whole school curriculum being delivered. It is important and necessary that your child attends remote school every day. A timetable has been drawn up for each class, which indicates when lessons will be live and when your child will be using prepared resources. Where possible, we have tried to use text books, so that parents have less to print. We are continuing to make slight adjustments to improve our teaching and learning delivery.

Please see some handy hints below about how to make lockdown learning more manageable.

Try and timetable your child's school day:

- Do not put too much pressure on yourself or your children to complete everything. Our staff are there to guide and support when needed. Be realistic with your expectations otherwise it will end up with friction and fighting which will cause stress amongst the family.

### Organising your Home School Day

- All year groups have a weekly timetable uploaded onto Teams,
- If possible, decide on a dedicated room or a space in the house where the children can work,
- A separate defined space will help you feel that your home learning day has a start and an end time.
- With different year groups having live lessons at the same time, you may need to create additional work spaces, or allow the children to wear headsets, so they can hear the lessons being delivered.
- Make it a comfortable environment and avoid having TVs and gaming devices in this space.
- Go through the expectations of remote learning behaviour that the class teacher has drawn up with the children.
- Agree and negotiate the format of the day together. Children work better when they have ownership and responsibility of the tasks and you do not have to go into battle and feel like you are negotiating world peace!

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- Make sure that your child attends the class registration every morning, as the class teacher will run through the day's learning.
- Print off the weekly timetable and display it somewhere for all to see.
- Display the timetable visually, so that your children can see what they need to do (school staff are online throughout the school day).
- Make sure that your child takes the breaks allocated, a quick stretch and walk around the garden or a timed break like they have in school, will help with focus and concentration.
- Take an interest in what they are doing as it will help them stay motivated. You do not need to sit next to them all the time, 'Velcro parent', but do check in regularly and acknowledge their efforts
- Make sure that you praise your children for the work completed. Praise the effort that they have made, 'I can see from your work that you have really concentrated and as a result look at what you have achieved'.
- Avoid criticism and instead say 'I can see how much you have done, to make it even better you could....'.
- Avoid removing all privileges if your child isn't conforming to the new school day. Taking everything away is going to be counterproductive and make you and your child very stressed.

Instead you could say to your child:

'I know you are feeling ..... but right now I need you to complete your .... You have a choice, either complete it now or complete it at the end of your home learning day when we are supposed to be (for e.g. baking). It is your choice!'

When agreed, thank them for making the right choice and move on. If they choose not to do it then carry through and complete it later when they should have been, for example, baking or gaming.

- Do not work beyond the normal school day.
- Avoid too much TV and Gaming while we are all stuck indoors. Agree an amount with your child and stick to it. It is a great way to occupy the children, but it can make them very unsettled and agitated in the long run.
- Give it time to settle into your new routine. You will most likely have a few days of bliss and then a few quite difficult days, but after that things will start to normalise. We are here to help through the tough days too.
- Talk to your children and reassure them of the situation. Explain why we have to do this.

If things are not working out at home with learning, please contact the school and we can discuss a solution. We totally understand how difficult this is and we will be able to help.

### Changing reading books and collected additional resources

Next week, we will send out details regarding a time to come to school to return and collect reading books and additional resources for learning. Please look out for this email. In the meantime, you can access a full range of e-reading books to help supplement what you have. There has been a list of links to books and audiobooks the children can access online, uploaded to every class teams page

## Remote Learning Induction Evening

Class Teachers will be delivering a remote teaching meeting on Monday night. This meeting is a chance for teachers to talk to you directly about the remote school day and how they will be delivering their teaching. This meeting is live but will be recorded as well. Year 6 will only have a recorded meeting on this occasion. The times are as follows:

| Year Group                      | Meeting Time 1<br>(Live 15—20 minutes) |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January |  |
| Reception                       | 3.15pm                                 |
| Year 1                          | 3.30pm                                 |
| Year 2                          | 3.45pm                                 |
| Year 3                          | 3.15pm                                 |
| Year 4                          | 3.30pm                                 |
| Year 5                          | 3.45pm                                 |
| Year 6                          | 3.30pm (Recorded)                      |

## Assemblies

- Class Teachers will have a registration assembly every morning at 8.55am.
- We will have a whole school assembly every Monday at 9.30am.
- We will continue to have learning assemblies on a Thursday morning but these will move to house class assemblies and not whole school.
- All invitations for assemblies can be accessed through the Welford on Avon Team tile. You will find a calendar date and a blue button to join.
- Class assemblies can be accessed through your class team tile
- **PLEASE DO NOT PRESS 'MEETING' in the top right hand corner of the screen as this will set up a new GENERAL meeting. You will be in the wrong meeting.**

| Class Lockdown Learning Assemblies<br>Spring 2021 First Half Term |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January                                 | Year 2 Higgs @ 9.30am        |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January                                 | Year 5 Higgs @ 1.30pm        |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January                                 | Year 1 Owen @9.30am          |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January                                 | Year 4 Owen @1.30pm          |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February                                 | Reception Davenport @ 9.30am |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                                | Year 3 Davenport @ 9.30am    |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                                | Year 6 Davenport @1.30pm     |

## Remote Parent Volunteers

If you are able to help out as a remote volunteer with some small tasks such as reading and spelling, please contact the school office. You will need an up to date DBS and you will need to attend some remote safeguarding training. In addition, you will receive a training session about what you need to do.

## Parents' Evening

Spring Parents evening will take place on Tuesday 9th February and Wednesday 10th February and will be held remotely using the Teams platform. You can book your slot from Monday 1st February using the online booking system. Details will be sent out soon.

## Technology

Pupils tend to spend longer accessing remote lessons on a Laptop than on a phone (tablets are in between). If you are struggling to access the remote teaching due to a lack of technology, please contact the school and we will try and find a solution.

I believe that you can download TEAMS onto a X Box which might help. You can download Microsoft Outlook onto Kindle Fire and join lessons through your child's school email. This may help if you are struggling with enough devices.

Information with guidance to lockdown learning was sent out at the start of the week. It would be very helpful if you could read through it.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Leeman and Team

## Guidance update

### **GOV.UK - Self-isolation information 10 days from the day after contact with the individual tested positive**

If someone with symptoms tests negative for COVID-19 they should stay at home until they are recovered from their illness.

The only exception to return following a negative test result is where an individual is separately identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, when they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of that contact.

If someone with symptoms tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and return only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste, as a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill or the day they had a test if they have no symptoms. If, after 10 days they still have a high temperature, they should continue to self-isolate until their temperature returns to normal.

Other members of their household should all self-isolate for the full 10 days from the day after the individual tested positive.

## Emergency Contact Details

School Mobile – 07762 152805

Email – head2058@welearn365.com