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Headteacher: Ian Taylor



Home Learning and Homework through Google Classroom

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you to inform you about our plans for home learning if your child is in isolation.

We will continue to use Google Classroom as during the school closures. Children must accept the invitation to their class and to other groups to access work and messages.

Year Group Closure

If a year group closes, your child's class teacher will upload daily maths, English activities and other work related to their topics. This work must be turned in so teachers can check the work and feedback to the children if necessary.

We will also aim to use Zoom meetings/tutorials when appropriate, so the children can speak to a group of friends and interact with their teacher. The required codes and details about zoom meetings will be communicated through Google Classroom. The children must use the code given to join the Zoom meetings/tutorials.

Children will be invited to 5 online zoom tutorials/meetings, with their friends in groups of 10 and with their class teacher. The tutorial/meeting will be repeated 3 times with three groups of 10 on the same day.

- Two maths meetings/tutorials a week.
- Two English meetings/tutorials a week.
- One guided reading meeting/tutorial.

Online meetings/tutorials could last up to 30 minutes and the children may then be asked to complete a related task.

Mrs Scannell will also upload weekly activities, challenges or projects relating to the wider world and assembly themes.

Children in self-isolation

Other children who are absent from school for prolonged periods of time due illness or self-isolation will also be expected to complete daily maths and English challenges and work related to their topics as during the school closures.

Children will also have access to the weekly, activities, challenges or projects relating to the wider world and assembly themes set by Mrs Scannell.

For individual children isolating, we will not be conducting zoom meetings/tutorials with class teachers as they will be in school teaching the rest of the class. However, we will be in regular contact through phone calls and well-being checks.

Homework – All Children

As mentioned in the newsletter, we have decided to continue to use Google Classroom whenever possible for setting and receiving homework.

Children from Y1 to Y6 will receive weekly homework tasks for English and maths and will be given topic-based homework projects at various points in the year.

This will help with limiting the number of books and worksheets used that could cause cross-contamination of Covid-19.

There may be times when Google Classroom is not appropriate, depending on the nature of the homework task/activity.

If you have any technical issues with using google classroom or you do not have access to a device, please let your child's class teacher know so we can make alternative arrangements.

The more children familiarise themselves with Google Classroom, the better. We need them to be independent and accustomed to work this way should their year group bubble have to close.

Children in EYFS will also have access to homework as and when appropriate. You will be notified of any tasks that are uploaded.

All children will be able to access Mrs Scannell's weekly activities, challenges and projects relating to the wider world and assembly themes. We would appreciate your support by encouraging your child(ren) to participate in this additional learning.

As before, please remember:

This system is not perfect and at times may not be suitable to your own family circumstances. Everyone's home life is different, but we are doing all we can to make sure children can learn!

We will protect our children and staff online by ensuring all the necessary Google Classroom privacy settings are in place. Teachers will not be reading and responding to any questions or queries sent through the google email system.

Any misuse of Google Classroom through inappropriate and unreasonable messages to teachers, **threatening, aggressive or abusive behaviour will be reported to the police. In the event of misuse, the account will be disabled whilst under investigation.**

For more information regarding the privacy notice please read:

https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html

There may be occasions when teachers are not available to respond to children immediately. There will be times when they will be repeating zoom meetings, working on other school related tasks or taking a break.

At school maths tasks are daily, the actual tasks usually take between 20 and 40 minutes in maths depending on the children's age and ability. English tasks can take a bit longer when completing extended writing.

Average attention spans work out like this:

- 2 years old: four to six minutes
- 4 years old: eight to 12 minutes
- 6 years old: 12 to 18 minutes
- 8 years old: 16 to 24 minutes
- 10 years old: 20 to 30 minutes
- 12 years old: 24 to 36 minutes

So, don't worry if your child loses concentration during a learning task.

Children don't spend every minute of the day at school working on tasks. Part of the time is spent working in discussion groups and learning through talk and play.

Maths and English are always taught in the morning at school because that is when children's concentration is at its best. As children get older, they can listen and concentrate for longer. If your child is struggling to concentrate, take a break and return to the task later.

We are not asking you to home school children, but to support their learning. We will aim to make instructions clear and concise, obviously, younger children will require more support.

Mental Health and Well Being

This is a challenging time for everyone and supporting learning at home is not easy. This time will be difficult for children too. They will be missing their friends, the social part of school life and working collaboratively with others.

Many school set tasks are geared towards working with a partner or as part of a team. Children will be missing these experiences despite having online learning.

Children's mental health and wellbeing must come first, the learning tasks set through Google Classroom must not put children under further unnecessary pressure during this difficult time. After tasks have been set, how you manage their home learning is then up to you. You know your child best.

During this challenging period when the schools are closed, children's mental health could suffer. It is paramount that fun activities at home continue and please take the opportunity to do plenty of creative and fun things... cook, paint, make things, play games, exercise, laugh and have fun!

This is a hard time for everyone, thank you for your continued support. We will continue to do our best to support you however we can.

Best wishes,

Ian Taylor
Headteacher