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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

Dear Parents,

Remote Learning

I hope you are all well, and under the circumstances, coping with this 3rd lockdown.

Staff today have been finalising the arrangements to support your child's learning, when they are not in school.

Most of you will remember that during the first partial closure of schools, from March till July, teachers set work using an email system, which we felt worked well at the time.

Tapestry

This time, however, we are using a more digitally based approach. The Reception pupils in Slytherin class will continue to use 'Tapestry'. We feel that this Early Years based resource is currently the best platform as the primary way of communicating between home and school. Parents of children in this class will be contacted by Mrs Davis. Mrs Davis will then guide the learning via the platform.

Google Classroom

For pupils in the other 3 classes; Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff and Gryffindor, the learning will be managed via Google Classroom. We have most of your email addresses now, and you should be receiving an invite to the classroom imminently. Google Classroom is a fun and interactive platform, which allows the teachers and pupils to interact in front of each other, and also privately- if the teacher wishes to discuss things with just one pupil. It is also useful when giving feedback to children. Most of the classes in the Federation used Google Classroom. If you haven't received an invitation, please contact your child's teacher on one of the email addresses I sent out in yesterday's update (on the website also).

(Please note that in Mrs Bees' absence, an excellent and experienced teacher called Mr Tuffley will be coordinating Google Classroom for Gryffindor. You must still use the email address I gave yesterday)

Zoom

It is our ambition for children to have some 'live' teaching experience through a digital platform. A lot of people are familiar with 'Zoom' and teachers will be making arrangements to conduct some Zoom lessons each week. This won't be every day, as all of the teachers will also be needed to teach in school once or twice a week, as well coordinating the home learning.

Nevertheless, we hope that as many of the pupils (and you!) will engage with the Zoom lessons.

What if we can't access these things at home?

We know that some of these new technologies are daunting, and of course we wish your child to have a positive experience. Please email your child's teacher if you are experiencing technical difficulties, and I'm sure that they can help. If this is the case, you may wish to copy me in, as I may be able to help too.

If you are having difficulties because you may not have the right equipment, please contact the school. We will need to provide you with some different means of accessing work for your child.

This will include some workbooks, exercise books and textbooks, and will be made available to all pupils over the next few days. You will be contacted when we would like you to collect them from school. If you remember, we did this last Spring.

Expectation

There is a different 'feel' to this current lockdown. Whilst there was always an expectation to learn at home last time, we were all realistic about how this could be sustained. I am hoping that the interactive nature of the mechanisms we now have in place will develop and become a useful tool in our teaching approach, for even after the pandemic has subsided.

I will be monitoring the children's engagement with learning. We are also looking at an online 'register' which in my experience the children enjoy being part of. I will be sending details of this over the next few days.

During the day it is difficult to teach your child at home, without a break they may falter, and become demotivated. Keeping to a simple daily routine will help; rewards can be as simple as praise and taking an active and genuine interest in what they are achieving.

I feel that 2 hours of written work over a 4 hour window will be adequate. If you need extra resources, the more ambitious of you can expand on the work set by the teacher yourselves; but there are lots of resources available online. Your child's

teacher will be glad to signpost you to these. Just ask through Google Classroom, or by emailing them.

Presentation of work is very important. Your child will know the high standards that we set. Please don't be afraid to challenge them if you think things could be better. When children present their work well, they are far more able to edit, re-draft and correct. This is a vital part of their learning and development. Good presentation should be praised every time, it does wonders for a child's self esteem.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further help and advice. There will be other updates as we progress through this lockdown. Please be patient and flexible, and understand that we are working as hard as we can, under very difficult circumstances, to provide the best education that we can

Many thanks, take care, and of course thank you for your support

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson
Headteacher