



NEWSLETTER

I hope you are all well and coping during these challenging times. All the teachers have been so impressed with the effort that the children are putting into their work both at home and in school. I thought I would write this letter to provide some information and hopefully answer any questions that you may have.

Critical worker and vulnerable children

We are currently open to critical worker and vulnerable children. Critical workers should only send their child to school when they need to in order to enable them to work. Mrs Wood will send out a booking form each week to be completed by 2.30 pm on Friday for the following week. Lunches should be ordered as usual. Because of the way we are organising staffing at the moment, we may not be able to accept children at Fun Club if they have not been booked in on the booking form. Charges for Fun Club will be as usual. In school, children are doing broadly the same activities as those working from home. We are grouping the children in their bubbles as before with nursery, reception, year 1 and 2 in one bubble, and year 3,4,5 and 6 in another bubble. The doors will open as usual between 8:45 and 9am. Please can children arrive at school by 9am. If children are attending school part of the time, they should be completing their online learning on the days that they are at home.

KS1 and KS2 Assessments

The government have announced that KS1 and KS2 SATs are cancelled this year due to the interruption to education. Teachers will still be covering the curriculum to ensure that the children are prepared for the next step in their education. We have not yet been told whether we will still be asked to input data from teacher assessments.

Remote Education

It has been great to see the children engaging with their remote learning over the last week. Reception can access their learning through Tapestry and years 1-6 are being set work on Seesaw. Below are some questions you may have about remote learning.

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching via video or Powerpoint and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

- 3 hours for KS1 (years 1 and 2)
- 4 hours for KS2 (years 3 – 6)

This is guidance and is based on the government suggested timings. We will provide lessons and activities that we feel can be managed reasonably in a day.

We will be setting fewer hours for Reception children as they are engaged in learning through play as part of continuous provision during a normal school day and do not have as many hours of direct teacher-led sessions as KS1. Nursery children will receive some learning ideas to support parents/carers at home with suitable learning.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

At any point, parents/carers can email their class teachers or ring school to discuss access to remote education. Where we can, we will seek to issue a device to children where there is no access at home. Where this is not possible or families do not have internet access, we will set work in another format. This may be workbooks or sheets that can be left in the main entrance at school for pick up or posted where this is not possible. If online access is not possible at home, parents/carers can submit work to teachers by post or by dropping off work in the entrance.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

- Recorded teaching videos such as Ruth Miskin phonics, White Rose Maths, Oak Academy lessons and some video/audio recordings made by teachers and teaching assistants
- Commercially available websites to support different subjects such as BBC Bitesize or Phonics Play.
- Online platforms subscribed to by school such as Times Table Rockstars, Mathletics and Spelling Shed
- Independent work linked to teaching in the form of onscreen activities, handwritten work and worksheets provided for parents/carers to print if they choose to. If appropriate, pupils and parents will often have the choice in how they wish to respond to allow more flexibility.
- Daily reading using books already at home or e-book sites such as Oxford Owls
- Some long-term project work or internet research may be given

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We expect that all children engage with remote education daily as if they were attending school. We do not provide a timetable as we know everybody's situation is different, but we recommend that parents/carers set up a timetable for their child so that they know what they have to do each day. This might be maths and english in the morning and another subject in the afternoon, with activities like reading, spelling/phonics and Times Table Rockstars timetabled outside of these session.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

All teachers will check engagement daily via Tapestry, Seesaw and our other online subscriptions and keep a record of completed tasks. Where engagement becomes a concern, parents/carers will first be emailed by their class teacher followed up, as necessary, by a phone call where strategies will be discussed to improve engagement.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Teachers and teaching assistants for children in years 1 – 6 will check Seesaw daily (aiming to check throughout the day where possible) and will mark directly on top of work or leave comments

- On Tapestry, teachers will comment on observations and link them to the development matters and early learning goals.
- Verbal feedback may be given using the microphone tool on Seesaw
- Self-marking activities such as Mathletics, Times Table Rockstars and Spelling Shed which give instant feedback
- Whole class feedback where appropriate
- Specific comments on the work may indicate where things have been done well, could be improved, extended or altered
- On Seesaw, teachers are able to send work back to a child if they feel it needs extra development
- Staff may contact parents/carers to discuss their child's progress

Teachers will be keeping in touch with families through email and from next week they will ring all parents to see how remote learning is going. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email your child's class teacher. If you need any paper or stationery for home learning, please also let your class teacher know as they may be able to arrange for some to be provided. On most occasions, teachers will respond between 9.00am and 4.30pm on their working days. All teachers are in school teaching so if you need an immediate response, please ring the office.

Miss Massey: fiona.massey@lindale.cumbria.sch.uk (Mon – Thurs)

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Yours sincerely
Mrs Curwen