

School Update 9 – Remote Learning

Thursday, 19th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Remote Home Learning

We have reviewed the situations in other schools and researched a wide variety of approaches to remote learning across the country. It is clear that parental circumstances are very different for a 14 day 'bubble lockdown' than they were in March.

We need to be aware that:

- Many parents are still working daily, not just Key Workers.
- Many parents are working from home, have odd shift times, etc.
- Childcare is an issue, as is being available to support children's' online learning.
- Anxiety levels are very different for the children and parents this time round.
- Teaching new learning and ideas in the time available and under these circumstances would be difficult, causes increased worries and more than likely impacts on confidence and self-esteem.

As a school we need to take these issues in to consideration and be ready if we do have 'bubble closures'. We strongly believe that a home learning curriculum that revisits and deepens previous learning from the term will support parents and reduce their worries about your child's learning. This work is still vital and will be learning that we already intended to revisit in school regularly to ensure retention of skills and knowledge.

It should:

- Give the children confidence in the work they are doing rather than facing new work delivered in a non-ideal way.
- Give parents confidence that their child has previous knowledge of what they are being taught, and that the work is designed to 'develop their understanding and recall' of that work.
- Support the development of more independent approaches (where age allows).
- Ensure children do not slip back due to overly high expectations of new learning but enables them to retain their understanding for when they return to school.
- Ensure the work has value and that it will support retention of key learning for their long term benefit.

School Update 9 – Remote Learning

So the Teaching and Learning approach in school will work in the following way.

1. When in school high quality daily teaching for all children. This is supported by homework via Seesaw (or Tapestry in F1) to ensure familiarity with the home learning system.
2. Where a child needs to self-isolate an initial programme of work is set via Seesaw. This will be reviewed and balanced by the teacher based on your feedback (via Seesaw) as best we can remembering we are still teaching the class.
3. Where your child's bubble closes the teacher will provide a 14 day programme of work that revisits and strengthens your child's learning via Seesaw. This will be teacher monitored and feedback provided.

For those parents who may struggle to support their child due to technology we have retained a few netbooks that we can lend out should there be a need.

Amount of Work when Bubbles Close

The teacher will provide **3 pieces of work**. There will always be a maths activity and then another 2 activities in a likely combination of reading, phonics/spelling, grammar or writing. This is a similar amount to that in lockdown. Many parents had a set routine during the first lockdown – we thoroughly understand that this may not be possible if/when a bubble shuts (but if it can be done it would benefit the children). There will be an **optional** Foundation Subject area too.

Free School Meals

With the ever changing economic situation please remember you can get Free School meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

School Update 9 – Remote Learning

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education



To apply click the link below:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Children in Need

We would like to thank you for your support with Children in Need this year. The children had a super day and we managed to raise £283.

Take care



Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team

Dates

3rd December – Flu immunisations

4th December – Y6 Bikeability (currently still going ahead as an outside activity)

16th December – Christmas Dinner

18th December – last day of term, possible Christmas Jumper Day (or alternative event)

2021

4th January – Inset Day (First Aid)

5th January – Inset Day (GDPR)

6th January – Children return to school

12th February – last day of term

22nd February – first day back at school

1st April (Thursday) - last day of term

19th April – first day back at school

3rd May – Bank Holiday May Day (one day only)

10th May to 13th May – SATs week

28th May – last day of term

7th June – first day back at school

25th June – Inset day

28th June – Inset day

7th, 8th and 9th July – Dukes Barn Residential Y6

13th July 2021 – Lea Green day visit for Y1

13th & 14th July 2021 – Lea Green Residential for Y2

22nd July (Thursday) last day of term