

Home Learning Update 3

Friday, 22nd January

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a strange and difficult few weeks for everyone, both for those at home and in school. Not only have we had the National Lockdown meaning most children are once again Home Learning but we have had everything from snow through to storms and flooding.

The suspected gas leak just seemed to be just another day amongst all of this! The leak was only minor and related to the Boiler and Water System in the Dining Room. However, it has meant these have both been condemned and must be replaced. This costly work will start on Wednesday and hopefully will be completed by the end of the week if all goes well!

Staff Testing

It is very likely that school staff will begin systematic Lateral Flow Testing for COVID next week once DCC confirm we can go ahead. This is a voluntary process that enables the staff member to get a result within 30 minutes. This result will pick up for 80% of the time where a Staff member has the coronavirus even if they are asymptomatic (no symptoms). From a positive result the staff member isolates and books a full PCR test that is checked in a lab to confirm the result. For staff who are in school all week this will happen twice a week. For others it will depend on their timetable.

The aim of this process is to pick up those cases that show no symptoms and reduce transmission in school. It will also reduce (not stop) the closure of bubbles, and as schools reopen should keep more pupils in school for longer.

There are no plans, as far as we are aware, by the government for testing Primary School Pupils. This has been reported in the press from time to time but the focus currently is only on staff.

Home Learning

The children have been completing about 3500 pieces of work per week on Seesaw. We have said it before, but you are simply the most amazing set of parents any school could wish for. We are sure the thought of another lockdown and going back to home learning was something you were not looking forward to. However, you have once again risen to the challenge and deserve a special mention in the School Gold Book!

We would also like another special mention for those parents of Nursery children who have been working with Mrs Morson on Tapestry. Your responses have been keeping Mrs Morson buzzing with excitement all week too!

We hope, as you do, that schools will be able to return to normal as soon as possible. In the meantime please be kind to yourselves, you are doing an outstanding job!

We switched the titles of work to signify priority this week – we have left details of the new system overleaf. If you wish to provide feedback on this Mr Snape's email is listed below in the Feedback section.

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Amount of Home Learning

The government guidance for how much Home Learning should be provided is three hours for Year 1 and Year 2, as well as four hours for KS2.

To achieve that amount of Home Learning for some larger and/or working families seems difficult and stressful. There will be days when it can be achieved, and days when it simply can't.

To help, we will categorise the work sent via Seesaw in to 'Priority', 'Foundation Subject' and 'Additional'.

- **Priority** work is essential for the children to maintain and develop their learning and this is the recommended minimum. Regular reading is also essential.
- **Foundation Subject** work will often be fun and interactive subject based work that may engage the wider family too. This may be art, music, etc.
- **Additional** work will often use fun games from various websites, interactive activities, BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy, etc. and will be linked to your child's learning. They will either reinforce previous learning or consolidate work from that week. Teachers are exploring the best way to present Additional work so the approach may alter as the weeks go on.

In this way, as parents, you know which work is essential for the children to focus on when things get really busy at home, or if you have to squeeze work in on difficult days, etc. These key indicator words are designed for you as parents to know the best way to help your children and make informed choices. We all know if we just used the word 'Optional' many children will just opt out.

Feedback

If you have any feedback on the new structure please let us know via headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.ch.uk.

In addition, any positive feedback on the Home Learning we can share with the governors and teaching staff is also greatly appreciated.

Remember, be in contact if you need us. We are all working together.

Take care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely



Mr N. Snape

Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team