



Dear Parents and Carers,

13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

I hope this finds you all well.

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing at home.

Our staff are really pleased with how well everyone is managing to access eSchools and the vast majority of the children are getting on well with their daily tasks. We do appreciate that having to home school again is really not an easy task and for those who are working from home too, it can be very challenging.

I just wanted to send you this email to inform you about a few things but particularly to remind you about the support we can give you when you are home schooling.

- ✓ **Please message via eSchools or ring if you or your child is struggling** – generally each day we have one teacher teaching in the class, supported by a Teaching Assistant, whilst the other teacher is planning and monitoring the remote learning. If your child is struggling with something or you just want to ask a question, please do not hesitate to either message the teacher via eSchools or give us a ring on the school number. One of the year group teachers will ring you as soon as they can and will be happy to speak to you or your child – whichever is best. We want to support you as much as possible and a phone call could make all the difference to you and your child.
- ✓ **Printing Worksheets off (Upper School)**– the teachers are trying as hard as possible to give you work that you do not need to print off. We're hoping that all the tasks given can either be completed on paper and then a photo of the completed work uploaded or that it can be completed by typing onto a different document e.g. Word or Notes and then copying and pasting this into eSchools or uploading as a file. On some devices it is possible to write on a pdf, so if that's easier, please do that. We are suggesting that you don't type into eSchools directly unless you continue to click 'save' throughout the typing of this as we have seen some children lose their work.
- ✓ **Printing Worksheets off (Lower School)** – the teachers are trying as hard as possible to give you work that you do not need to print off. We're hoping that all the tasks given can either be completed on paper and then a photo of the completed work uploaded or that it can be completed by typing onto a different document e.g. Word or Notes and then copying and pasting this into eSchools or uploading as a file. On some devices it is possible to write on a pdf, so if that's easier, please do that. We are suggesting that you don't type into eSchools directly unless you continue to click save throughout the typing of this as we have seen some children lose their work. One parent in Y2 suggested that a Word and pdf was uploaded on eSchools as those with Word could type straight in – we are doing that now for Y2 but feel for the Reception children and Y1 this is not as useful and we'd like to encourage children to respond to the task on paper, ensuring they continue to practice their handwriting skills.
- ✓ **Lined Paper** – if you are struggling with finding lined paper we have put some exercise books in the porch at our main entrance. Please feel free to come and collect a book for your child to work in, if this would be helpful.

- ✓ **Corrections** – If children are requested to respond further to the work they have completed e.g. check their answer or correct a spelling, can these be sent to the teacher via the message function as that would then alert the teacher that the child has responded. Currently the teacher gets no alert if the child has responded to the teacher's comment.
- ✓ **eSchools Technical Problems** – don't battle on if you are struggling to upload or having any technical problems with eSchools. Mr Durham is available on 07402523333 until the end of January, so please make any calls directly to him and I am sure he'll be able to help you out, save you time and reduce your frustration!
- ✓ **X Box and Play Station** – if you are struggling for devices to work on within your household, did you know that your child can access eSchools via their X Box or Play Station? I have attached the instructions on how to do that. It could make things easier for you.
- ✓ **Fiction Express (Upper School) and Bug Club (Lower School)** – We realise that you won't have access to many reading scheme books now but you do have access to Fiction Express (for Y3 to Y6) and Bug Club (for Reception, Y1 and Y2). Please ensure your children access these as it's so important that they continue to practice their reading daily.  
*If your child is using Bug Club – please remind them to click on the bug to answer the questions.*
- ✓ **Mathletics** – Don't forget the children can access Mathletics independently and teachers might direct your children to completing specific things on this.

I hope this is helpful to you. There is a lot the children can be getting on with but we appreciate that for those children who are not able to work independently, it can be difficult for you to find the time to support them. If this is the case, please just try to get the basics done – the daily Maths and English tasks - and then to hear your child read.

I can't emphasise enough, please get in touch if you need any help.

Kind regards,  
Kay Hemmings  
Head Teacher