



January 6th 2021

REMOTE AND BLENDED LEARNING PROVISION

Good afternoon!

We do hope you are all ok and managing to cope with this new Lockdown!

I just wanted to offer reassurance regarding our Remote and Blended Learning provision.

Since September we have been working on preparing for this eventuality so that we could offer you the best provision possible should we find ourselves in the position we are in now. We are asked by the government that we provide 3 hours of remote and blended learning each day for primary aged children. I have to be open and transparent with you and tell you that we initially explored the Microsoft package as a platform for our remote and blended learning, investing a great deal of time and energy into it, only to discover it wasn't suitable for us and there were better ways forward. I did a U-turn on it, Boris style! We have now moved to using Google Classroom as our learning platform and were able to undertake training on this on Monday's INSET, though we didn't realise we would be needing it quite so quickly! We also had a Contingency Plan up our sleeves which we needed to have in case of a bubble closure.

On Monday night we heard the news at the same time as you- our priority had to be the organisation of the Keyworker and vulnerable children so staff turned to their Contingency Plan in the first instance. In an ideal world we would have had a platform ready to go but because of our change of platform choice, I am sorry this was not the case. By next week or sooner, we should be up and running with Google Classroom for Years 1-6 and Tapestry for Foundation children. Your classteachers will be in touch and be able to tell you more but what this means is that your child will soon have their own e-mail address and direct contact with the classteacher. The classteacher can set directions for learning and tasks for the day and week ahead and check in with, and offer feedback to pupils throughout the day. There will be structured sessions and guidance and opportunities for some pre-recorded or live contact each day.

Classteachers are mostly working from home so that they can dedicate their working day to your child's remote and blended learning and I hope you know you only have to ask and they will give you a call and any support you need. Our amazing Teaching Assistants are here in school, leading the Keyworker and vulnerable children in their learning.

I do hope that you find Google Classroom a valuable tool over the next few weeks and, as ever, I thank you for your understanding on this.

Warm regards,

Bernadette Hunter