

Newsletter - 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021 and a Happy New Year to you all.

What a very strange week! I had written a newsletter on Monday ready to send out but this was put on hold knowing that the Government was going to make an announcement regarding schools later that evening. I was certainly not expecting the news of another lockdown. The staff enjoyed a training day on Monday with the focus on improving children's vocabulary and we discussed the implications of a full return to school on the Tuesday!

School set-up from January 2021

The school is open every day for the normal hours. If you feel you fit the criteria of a Key Worker and would like your child to link to time in school, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. All staff are working their normal hours in school and so can be contacted easily if you need to get in touch. The same class "bubbles" are operating and the adults will be teaching the key worker and vulnerable children in their usual classrooms. The teachers will be teaching the same activities in the classroom to what has been planned for the home learning. This means that all the children will be working on the set tasks at the same time. A timetable for each week will be posted in the Home Learning tab found on each class page of the school website on Sunday, as well as the tasks for Monday, ready for Monday morning. This will then be repeated each day giving you the detailed planned learning on a daily basis ready for the next day. Details of the links to supporting resources will be available for each task. It is important for you to establish clear and constant routines at home in line with usual school routines. This will help your child to feel part of the usual school day and school expectations. They do not need to wear school uniform however!

The Government has advised schools to prepare learning for up to 3 hours a day for primary aged children and we recommend that no more than this is attempted. There are other providers such as the BBC, who are running learning programmes every day, which may provide an extra to what is provided by school. However, it is important that the key basic tasks that your teacher has prepared, are achieved every day to ensure that your child's learning is not too badly affected during this latest lockdown.

We are there to support you and it is important that regular communication is set up between home and the class teacher. E-mail is preferable and a class e-mail address has been set up (e.g. owls@lydbrook.gloucs.sch.uk). The teachers will keep an eye on this e-mail account and will get back to you as soon as they are able.

The Government have stressed that schools must keep up-to-date with how the remote learning is going and they have asked all schools to regularly check in with their families to ensure that the work is being completed and to help with any difficulties or misunderstandings. There is an expectation that all planned tasks must be completed. If we are seeing that the children are not completing the key tasks, we will be contacting you to see how we can help.

On the website is a survey to find out whether all homes have adequate IT to support remote home learning. Please complete this survey to let us know your situation. If you have more than one child and they all need to have time on the device to complete their home learning, it is important to set up a timetable for each child so that they can each have some time. We are looking to implement Microsoft Teams as a platform to put all the home learning onto in the near future. When this is finally set up we will provide information on how to use this. The Government have also made it

clear to Broadband providers that families should have access to free internet at home during the lockdown. If you need any help with this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, it is important for your child to keep safe on-line. Please oversee their time on the device ensuring that they are linked into the right on-line resources.

Home learning expectations on schools

It is important for you, as parents, to understand the expectations on schools for home learning. We will be setting a planned and well-sequenced curriculum linked to the Lydbrook long-term curriculum plan. We will link the learning to high quality remote education resources (e.g. Power-points/videos and use online tools to allow for interaction and feedback. We will also provide printed materials for pupils who do not have suitable online access. Please contact us if you require these.

We will also provide regular, clear explanations of new learning which will be through high-quality curriculum resources or videos. There is no expectation on teachers to teach live lessons through Information Technology but as mentioned above, we are looking to implement Microsoft Teams as soon as we are able to allow us to link in remotely, on occasions, to allow the class to come together.

We also have to check regularly whether pupils are engaging with their work and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern.

Full details can be found on the DfE website regarding remote learning.

Risk assessments – Covid19

You would have received a text to inform you that the reviewed and updated Risk assessments linked to the pandemic have been placed on the school website. Most things have remained the same but it is important to note the following:

- Parents are expected to wear a face covering when they near the school site and if they come onto the school site
- Staff will remain inside the school premises as much as they are able to
- Staff will wear a face covering if they move outside the school site or if they talk to a parent face to face

I hope you have found this newsletter informative and not too overwhelming. During this difficult period it is important we work together and communicate regularly. This will help all of our pupils to remain linked to their learning and to keep in good routines. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or concerns and I will help as much as I can. The teachers will communicate with you all regularly and will keep an eye on how the learning is going on.

It is important we all also remain safe and well.

Best wishes

S.T. Lusted