



Dear Parents and Carers

Newsletter 7

Friday 15th January 2021

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the first two weeks of term whilst we've established safe and manageable working conditions in school, and effective remote learning provision. I'd like to thank my colleagues for their professionalism in these challenging times. For a third time, they have expertly adjusted to the new expectations despite the frustration that accompanies not seeing their children and colleagues every day.

The same is clearly true for our pupils. I must commend them on the way they have adapted to home learning. I have certainly observed much high-quality work being shared on Google Classroom.

As we are now again in a lockdown situation this overview sheet explains our intentions for remote learning. Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at our school. As a school we are building on our growing knowledge and skills of developing remote learning.

This first update is to give you information about expectations.

We understand that it can be a real challenge to work at home and children may need time to settle into a routine. As parents we know that you will be trying your best to ensure your child engages with home learning. Having a particular time or times in the day for this will help establish a routine.

1. Recommended Time

Government recommendation is

Years 1 and 2 = 3 hours daily

Years 3-6 = 4 hours daily

It is recognised that for children in reception and nursery this will be less and involve more activity-based options. Some activities may be practical, others will be completed online (eg quiz) and others may ask children to write.

2. Timetable

Teachers have identified a number of tasks for English, Maths and wider curriculum subjects or topic for each day. As these lessons are available on the Google Classroom Portal children will be able to start these at any time. We recommend that you have a timetable that fits in with your family routine and that you try to keep to a daily routine as this will support your child/children focusing on their work. We would suggest that children work on the English and Maths activities in the morning and that any other topic activities that they wish to do are completed in the afternoon.

3. Google Classroom – Daily Register

Each class has created a daily register. Please make sure your child is completing this as it allows the staff to know who is accessing the remote learning.

4. Contact with Children

The teacher or TA will interact with your child using Google Classroom. Class teachers will do their best to respond to any questions, queries or concerns during the school day. However please be aware that they are teaching bubbles of children in school. As parents if you need to contact class teachers then they can be contacted via the class email address.

5. Feedback and how often

Teachers will be responding to children throughout the day on Google Classroom where appropriate. Uploading work is a great way for the teacher to see the sorts of things your child is doing. If you are not able to submit the worksheet that your child is completing then a photograph of work is helpful.

What you may need at home

This will obviously vary depending on the age and stage of your child/children.

- We recognise that having a device to be able to use Google Classroom is important. A device that can access the internet includes – a phone, tablet, laptop or console (such as an Xbox or Playstation). **If you feel that the device you have is inappropriate or not working well then please contact the school and we will see how we can support you.**
- Every week we will print Maths resources for your child for the following week. These can be collected during school hours (9am-3pm) on a Friday. In addition to this there will be stationary and exercise books available to be collected on a Friday.

Helping your child with working at home

What you can do to help

Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we don't expect you to watch your child all day. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active
- **Please keep in touch with us** and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact your child's teacher via the year group email, or on Google Classroom or by ringing the school office and asking if the teacher could contact you.

What to do if your child isn't engaging in home learning:

- Look at a variety of ways your child could share their work and wider activities with the teacher eg uploading a photograph of what they have been doing
- Communicate via the class email address or Google Classroom.
- Phone call to school to arrange a conversation with your child's teacher.
- Increased feedback with their teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Informing the school of any covid symptoms / a positive test

I'd like to take this opportunity again to remind you to inform us if your child has had any symptoms since being in School this term and has also received a positive test, by using the covid19@woodlands.wilts.sch.uk email address.

Reception class of 2021!

Will your child be four years old before 1st September 2021? If so, it is time to apply for a Primary School place. Please apply online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk. Deadline for applications is 15th January 2021.

Staff changes

We are very sad to be losing Mrs Chard at the end of this term. She will be relocating to Scotland having gained promotion as Assistant Principal and because her husband has received a new posting in the RAF. We are very grateful for her outstanding teaching, pastoral support of all the children in her care and the way she has led phonics over the last two and a half years that she has been at Woodlands and we wish her well in her future role. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Johnston, a very experienced teacher who has taught for many years and comes to us with a wealth of leadership experience. We will ensure that this transition is smooth and that both teachers will have plenty of opportunities to discuss the children in Beech Class.

Matthew Kitley



Headteacher

