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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your hard work and effort in supporting your children to engage with their remote learning over this past week, it has been fantastic to see the work that they are turning in each day. Now that we are a week into this new lockdown, I wanted to provide some further information about the approach that we are taking with regard to our remote learning as a school.

What is on Google Classroom?

Daily lessons – maths, reading, writing and foundation subject work are set regularly in a variety of forms. They are often accompanied by a video link which provides modelling and instructions around the task.

Recorded feedback – teachers provide short, recorded feedback sessions which include helpful information about errors or misconceptions which children have been making and may need further support with (these are based on the work which children produce and will be provided as we deem they are needed).

Assemblies – each week we will record a whole school Celebration Assembly, which will take a very similar format to that which the children are used to in school. This will appear on Google Classroom on a Friday at 1pm. There will also be a whole school assembly which will appear at 9am on a Monday each week and will cover a variety of themes. Again, this will be a very similar format which the children will be used to.

How much work should my children be doing?

All schools are required by the government to provide 4 hours of remote learning each day for children. We have chosen to do this through pre-recorded sessions to provide flexibility for families in when they deliver this, as well as give children the opportunity to listen to instructions and explanations multiple times if they need to.

We recognise that all families are working extremely hard to balance their children's online working as well as their own work and we are extremely grateful for all of your effort with this. We will be making phone calls to families if we notice that limited work is being completed, as we did in the last lockdown. Please understand that these are not 'chasing' phone calls, we are only calling to find out if there is any way in which we are able to help or support and to also ensure that everything is ok.

Do I have to resubmit work after it has been marked?

Once children have submitted work on Google Classroom they will receive feedback from their teachers. When your child receives feedback, they do not need to re-submit that work again by clicking 'Turn in' for a second time (unless they have been directed to make a significant change to

their initial work). If they continue to 'Turn in' work multiple times this can cause issues for the staff who are trying to mark it, as it essentially arrives in the 'unmarked work' section again.

Teachers will continue to provide feedback between 8:30am and 4:30pm as they have been doing. On some occasions you may notice that individual teachers provide feedback later into the evenings; this is to support our staff who have young children and are balancing working from home whilst also supporting their own children with online learning. However, please do not expect a response outside of the hours stated.

Weekly live drop-ins

We have been keen to provide a foundation for the way in which we work during this lockdown which we believe will be sustainable. However, once we have this established we would like to develop additional opportunities for the children (so long as we have the capacity to do so). One of the things we are keen to introduce are weekly virtual drop-ins where staff will host a short meeting, likely to be around 15 minutes, with their class. We are working out the details of this but aim to provide additional information for you next week.

It is clear that this current lockdown is different to the previous one in March and there are significant challenges which everyone faces as a result. As a school, we are required to ensure that we provide the following:

- High quality learning opportunities for all children who are in school and at home
- That pupils who are classed as being 'vulnerable' are in school
- That places are available for critical worker children who need them and don't have any other option

These are good priorities and we are pleased to have such a clear focus around the role that schools are expected to play. It is likely however that you have seen news articles regarding the stresses that schools are under in trying to juggle these things, particularly due to the significantly large number of critical worker places required. As I have said before, we are happy to support families who have such a vital role to play at this time, however, I am also keen to emphasise the importance of only using these critical worker spaces if you really have no other option available to you. I am reminding you of this to ensure that we are making schools as safe as we possibly can for staff and children. Thank you for your continued support and understanding with regard to this matter.

Kind regards



Ryan O'Hearn
Headteacher