

October 2020

RE - Remote Learning

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and hope you are managing the challenging times we are continuing to be living in.

As you may have heard, the government have issued a direction to all schools in England that states: that where a class, group of pupils, or individual pupils need to self-isolate, or there are local or national restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home, schools are expected to provide immediate access to remote education.

We have been considering this following your responses to learning packs provided in the lockdown in the spring and summer terms 2020 and current guidance.

We are pleased to say that we have purchased a number of subscriptions that will allow children to learn online and ensure teachers can provide encouragement, support and feedback online (something that was not so easy for us last term). We have listed these on our guide for parents (please see attached from Miss Chapman our Computing Leader).

To allow for remote learning at Loose we will be using google classroom as a platform to host all learning materials and these will include videos, links to websites and learning sheets and suggestions each day during a lockdown or bubble closure. They will be uploaded each week and teachers will (in the case of a lockdown or bubble closure) be able to offer feedback to pupils and support, similar in some ways to what would be offered in the classroom.

If a child is isolating, we currently have 2 weeks of learning online (soon to be moving over to be on google classroom) for them to access whilst their peers are doing similar learning in class so that the gap does not become too wide with missed learning.

Points to bear in mind – this is a new way of working for all of us, there will be technical glitches we are sure but we will continue to try to offer exciting learning for children to access learning if at home similar to that in school. Learning will not be the same at home as in school (as we are sure you understand from lockdown previously) and we will aim to provide approximately 3 hours of learning for each day so this is manageable for families. This will include a range of subjects over the week (just as in school) and will include reading, activities and written tasks. If individual children are isolating (eg waiting for a family member to receive a test result) then teachers are teaching the rest of the class in school so it is more difficult for staff to offer feedback to these pupils than if the whole class were not in school as the teacher would be working from home in this case to offer

feedback to pupils during school hours and available to help and encourage children to do their work (whilst appreciating that they are doing this for the other 29 – 31 children in the class also!).

A number of parents have mentioned that reading and not being able to take books home is a worry. It is for us too, we can assure you we are reading lots in school and post regular book lists on twitter to promote good reads for children of all ages at home. We have an excellent reading list and support page on our website here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Reading&pid=49> We use bug club for KS1 children and advise you to either purchase books for reading at home or visit the local library to borrow books to read at home. We can offer some books to read from school but these have to be quarantined after each use so we are unable to do as frequent swaps as we would have prior to COVID.

There will be a focus in some classes on the basics and handwriting but this, along with other learning activities would be posted on google classroom each day. We will learn together how best to ensure children miss as little as possible if we need to learn from home again, whilst acknowledging that we need to prioritise learning and focus on what must be taught and covered and those things that would be good to learn (as our curriculum plan) if we were in school with no absence. We recognise that there are some things that may not be able to be taught remotely.

We will try to offer class celebrations (eg assemblies, sharing a good book and catch ups via google meet) and other things to keep the class feel even if we are not together in school.

We sent a survey so parents could let us know if they may not have hardware and infrastructure to complete online learning at home. We will be contacting families if we are able to help with the loan of school equipment for use at home.

We value your feedback and have discussed our plans with the parent council but appreciate any comments you have at any time so we can always try to offer the best education to pupils at Loose.

We (as you can imagine) are currently undertaking professional development and training in our staff bubbles to ensure we are as ready as we can be for whatever COVID times have in store for us. We will continually have your child's best interests at the heart of all decisions we make so please do bear with us – your patience and understanding are very much appreciated by us all.

With best wishes from Mrs Holman and Loose Primary Staff.