21st April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Hello to you all! I hope that you are keeping well - you are very much missed and are constantly in our thoughts. Again I must say a huge well done to parents/carers for supporting your children with home learning - many of you are also juggling your own work from home too and I know that is incredibly challenging. As we move into our first half term, with the sincere hope that we will reunite before the summer holidays, we are further developing our home learning support. This will mean that children will have greater opportunities to see teachers explaining activities via Purple Mash, as well as interacting with teachers each day for support via Zoom.

Many of the things that we were doing before the Easter break will continue, namely:

* Daily class blog post outlining tasks for the day
* Staff checking the blogs and responding to queries from children
* Staff providing feedback on writing tasks at least twice a week
* A weekly story time video on the school website by class teachers
* Weekly activities/stories posted on the school website by Mr Williams, Coach Steve & Mr McIntyre
* Weekly Headteacher newsletter

**Starting from Monday 27th April**, the routine will also include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **New Changes** | **Additional Information** |
| Video instructions for each day’s tasks for all classes | The combination of a blog post and a video that children/parents can play back as many times as they need will mean that the children are even clearer on what they have to do. |
| Videos to teach new curriculum content | This will be uploaded to Purple Mash |
| Daily Zoom drop-in session | This is an hour-long slot at the same time each day when the children know they can join a Zoom meeting and ask teachers things directly that they may be stuck on. Some classes may also use this time to support targeted children with such activities as guided reading. |

**The Zoom meeting timings are:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Y1** | **Y5** | **Rec** | **Y6** | **Y4** | **Y2** | **Y3** |
| 10 -11am | 10.30 -11.30am | 11am - 12pm  Groups | 11.30am -12.30pm | 1 -2pm | 1.30 -2.30pm | 2 - 3pm |

We ask that parents/carers talk to their children in advance about appropriate behaviours while watching the videos or in Zoom meetings. Teachers will share the meeting ID and password for each day’s Zoom meeting on the class blog on Purple Mash.

For safeguarding and data protection reasons please can we remind everyone that:

* **no one has permission to screen shot or record a teacher or child (that is not their own) and post this on any public forum**
* **Meeting ID and passwords must not be shared with any one else**

All teachers have been trained in using Zoom following safeguarding procedures and practices to ensure secure and safe communication.

**By Friday 24th April,** teachers will have posted a plan of topics/themes for this half term on the class page, on the school website - parents/carers can then undertake their own research as needed.

We are also in the process of compiling more hard copies of activities which we would like to disseminate on Friday afternoon. In order to maintain the social distancing expectations, we are requesting that one person from a household comes to collect their child’s pack from school. Where this is problematic, please contact the school office before Friday so that we can make alternative arrangements.

While we are a skeleton staff on a rota system, myself and Mr McIntyre are here daily and are very happy to support parents in any way that we can, especially if your child/children need a little motivational talk. We may not be able to give ‘the look’ but our disappointed tone is equally effective! You can also communicate with teachers via the blog or email.

With warmest wishes,

Lorraine Dolan