

Parents and carers

thank you for your continued support with your child's remote learning. All staff know how challenging it is for you. We are aware that it is challenging for different people for different reasons, and we are continuing to work with families to understand your barriers and reduce them, and give support where we can, to enable engagement in remote learning.

## Teacher's voice:

This update is a useful opportunity for me to share the challenges for teachers, as I am sure you will appreciate, there are many barriers for them too. These barriers include:

- Our children and their families need very different things at the moment and we need to respond to that need, eg organising paper packs, supplying devices, providing emotional support
  - With regards to paper packs and resources for home use. Please can I request on behalf of staff that you only request a pack, if you intend to use it. It takes a lot of time for staff to plan and prepare packs, and it is demoralising for staff, when the packs are not used. Thank you.
- There is a pressure from the government for schools to ensure *all* pupils attend (engage in remote learning) and we have some families not opting into remote learning. This places a huge pressure on all schools.
- Teachers are trying to do many things at the same time. They are:
  - Working on site in the classroom and continuing to follow protocols regarding additional cleaning
  - Supporting remote learning –marking work and giving feedback, preparing work, making videos, upskilling themselves and teaching assistants in order to respond to the new challenges
  - Checking in with parents and responding to calls
  - Chasing up pupils/families who are disengaged

It is so important to gather the voice of all parties involved in these unusual times so that we can work together effectively for the best possible interests of our children. All staff in school are very grateful for the support that you are giving your children at home, and the honesty in which you share the challenges that you are facing.

In partnership with families, our aim is to provide the best education that we can for our children, whilst trying to balance the wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff.

### Remote Learning—feedback from Parents

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey monkey in January. Your feedback has helped to direct and prioritise some changes with our provision.

I have summarised some key points that you have shared and the actions that we have taken, in response to your feedback:

4. What are the barriers that you are currently facing?		
Being able to motivate and engage my child in learning	45.45%	15
Balancing working from home and supporting my child's learning	42.42%	14
Other. Responses included: Printing and or recording on the screen x3 Having a number of children at home and supporting children of different ages x3 Struggling with how to teach aspects of maths My child missing out socially x5	27.27%	9
None	24.24%	8

6. Which aspects of the remote learning are you finding works well?		
Written feedback on written work	75.76%	25
Paper based work that can be uploaded	57.58%	19
Stories read by a member of staff	54.55%	18
Voice-overs – hearing the teacher's voice	51.52%	17
Videos with staff visible	36.36%	12
Other. Responses included: Just a little more instruction on how different maths methods should be taught. I don't feel the White Rose maths videos too helpful. My biggest concern is that we learn one big thing in a lesson that is worked out a certain way then the next lesson we've moved onto something else which requires a different method of working out. Maybe more activities that involve handwriting as they are losing their skills in that area		

with doing everything online		
I like the packs we have collected from school. I would like to see this level of quality and effort the school have gone to to continue		
Opportunities for children to talk to one another		
Teacher teaching the full class online via video link (e.g. teaching sessions with the class on Zoom)		

#### Actions taken from school:

- Paper copy of packs continue to be available from school—please reach out to your child’s class teacher if you would like a pack.
- More video, voice over explanations are being used by teachers and posted. These videos are increasing, particularly for maths in Class 3 and Class 4, following requests from parents and pupils. Phonics videos, storytelling and explanations in other subjects are increasing also.
- Teams sessions (live session) – Class 3 and Class 4 have attended an introductory session to Teams and Wellbeing. These sessions are providing an opportunity for our children to connect.
- Online games have been set up in Class 3 and Class 4, so that children can connect with each other.
- Wellbeing Wednesday sessions have been introduced and Mental Health videos have been shared.

#### Positive Feedback received from parents:

Thank you, for the positive feedback given. It is important to know what works well, so that we can continue to deliver that. It has also been good for staff morale to know what is working well.

### What will the impact be if my child does not engage in remote learning?

Children who have not engaged regularly in remote learning will have bigger gaps on return to school. They will have missed out on a number of sequences of learning. These sequences are building blocks and are progressive. They are steps that enable progress.

### Does it really make a difference that my child has engaged in daily remote learning?

The simple answer is **yes, absolutely**. Teachers are fully aware who has completed work and how well they have done. Teachers know who they have given additional support to and who has found tasks straightforward. The dialogue that has gone on between teachers and pupils, and teachers and parents have provided a platform for informal assessment. This means that for these pupils, once they return to school, teachers will not need to assess where the children are at, they can continue to move the children forward in their learning.

Remote learning has also provided many opportunities for staff to see how the children have coped at home during the lockdown period. This will aid staff to be able to fully support children on their return emotionally, as well as academically.

Remote learning has provided an effective way for families at home to stay connected with school, and this has been invaluable.

### How long will remote learning continue?

Schools do not know any more than the general public. The Prime Minister will make **announcements on 22<sup>nd</sup> February** regarding plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We will respond speedily to guidance given on that date.