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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Remote Learning

From next week, as we previously mentioned, we will begin our move towards using the Teams platform to share some learning activities with our children. Initially next week, there will be a small selection of pre-recorded short lessons and activities available on Teams for each year group- these will be based around Phonics/English, spelling, mental maths and E-Safety.



We have planned to introduce Teams in this way, to the children, in order not to overwhelm them with too much information all at once. We are acutely aware, to coin a familiar phrase, "Whilst we are all in the same storm, we are all very much in different boats". Within our school family and community our circumstances are all very different and whilst some people would feel confident accessing a full live/remote timetable from the outset, many others would not.

After much planning and collaboration, as a school, we have decided to build up to live learning sessions, alongside a range of online and pre-recorded activities which will be available to all children. In order to ensure continuity of learning and opportunities for all children, pupils will continue to access the same learning activities whether learning in or out of school.



From Monday 18th January, children will be able to access their 'Team chat function' on Teams which will allow them to ask questions directly to their class teacher throughout the day. Teachers will be able to respond to the children's questions and support with any misconceptions. Please note that teachers at times may not be able to respond immediately to pupils working remotely as they are also working with the children accessing key worker/vulnerable provision in school. Each teacher will provide an overview of when they will be available to answer children's questions remotely.

We have produced a user guide showing how to use Teams, in order to help pupils and parents understand how best to access this platform. We have tried to make it as simple as possible. Younger children will still certainly need help to be able to log on and access Teams, as will some older children initially.

From Monday 18th January, class planning will continue to be available online on our school website and accessed through our Home Learning section and Classroom doors.

<http://www.ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/home-learning-zone/>

As with anything new, there are bound to be a few teething problems that children, families and staff have in accessing this new way of working. We want to reassure you that we understand that these are very difficult and unprecedented times and there is no expectation that every child will complete every activity in the same way. There is an expectation that your child should attempt the online work provided, however, as a school we very much believe that families must do what is manageable and works for them and their circumstances and therefore we recognise that there is some flexibility around this. Please keep the line of communication open with your child's class teacher and they will communicate with parents and pupils and support the children's learning and progress during the period of school closure.

If there are families, that we do not already know of, who are struggling for their child to access a device or the internet then please let your child's class teacher know. We are here to help and as a school can offer some technical support.

Following this letter parents will receive (to share with their children):

- A link to a 'how to guide' for using Teams (if you would like a paper copy of this please let your child's teacher know)
- Class teachers will email each individual parent with your child's Teams log in details, along with a reminder of any other passwords that they need.

Please ensure that your child's class teacher has your up to date email address so that you receive your child's log in information. If you need to update your email address please contact your child's class teacher using their email address below.

Reception- Ms Wetherell l.wetherell202@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

Year 1 - Miss Jewitt a.jewitt300@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

Year 2 - Miss Harker y.harker300@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

Year 3 - Miss Brack j.brack300@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

Year 4 - Mrs Smith k.smith201@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

Year 5 - Mr McPhail a.mcphail300@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

Year 6 - Mr Merrington r.merrington341@ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk



Once again we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation and ongoing support. It is only by working together that we can achieve the best possible outcomes for all of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Wright

Deputy Headteacher.