



11 January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you are all coping well with the challenges of home schooling. The first days are always challenging, as you settle into new routines and we refine our provision in light of changing guidance. During this lockdown, we are eager for pupils not to lose the learning time that they did in 2020, and we are therefore continuing to teach the curriculum that they would have covered in school. This does mean we are pushing for even greater engagement with remote learning and we will be monitoring this more closely. This dovetails with the government's expectations, which includes 3-4 hours of learning per day and Ofsted monitoring schools' remote learning provisions.

We realise this adds pressure on you to support your child's learning. No matter how much we try to make it independent, adult support is inevitable, especially for younger pupils. We also recognise that every home situation is different and there are different pressures when adding home schooling into the mix (be it work pressures, digital device sharing or children not wanting to work at home!) We ask that you stay in touch with us, complete as much work as possible and let us know the barriers your child faces with their remote learning. In return, we will support as much as possible and try to help you overcome these barriers where we can.

In the last week we have had to completely redevelop our curriculum delivery, with only 12 hours' notice from the government. We had to make many decisions quickly, and now over the next couple of weeks we will review and refine them to make sure they are working as intended. An example of this is the idea about live registrations; we thought they would be a nice way to start the day, engage with the children face to face, set them up for the day and explain some of the work they will be completing. This morning it was lovely to see the pupils together on screen, but the reality is that this is a logistical challenge for families and staff. We have therefore decided that these will take place on Monday mornings only, which means we will hopefully have the vast majority of pupils able to attend.

Some parents have asked why we are not providing 'live lessons' online. We have considered this at length, read the research and read about experiences in other settings. In conclusion, we will not be doing live lessons online for the following reasons:


- Safeguarding – live lessons are unpredictable and you cannot guarantee what will be seen or heard with so many cameras and microphones open.
- 'Classroom' management – leading training sessions via online platforms is a challenge, and that is if the technology and Wi-Fi all works to plan.
- Adult support – this would still be required as a teacher and TA would still not be able to support pupils 1-2-1... that's before we factor in tech support.
- Devices – this is the clearest reason for me. Many families do not have enough digital devices for 1 per child, some have none at all, therefore pupils need to complete work on the same device. This cannot happen with live lessons as the timings overlap and therefore one child would miss their learning.
- Data – online meetings use a significant amount of data, which some households cannot afford.
- Behaviour/concentration – some arguments for live lessons are that the children will get to see their friends, which can become a negative as the children do not focus on their learning.

The benefits of live lessons (face to face contact, seeing friends etc) will be achieved through the Monday morning registration sessions, mentioned above, and other ad-hoc activities that class teachers may choose to do. The above issues still apply, but for shorter periods of time and for non-essential learning.

Please continue to engage with remote learning and share your experiences with your child's class teacher so we can continue to develop our provision. All staff are working really hard to provide engaging and interesting content, so please do provide positive feedback along with any suggestions you may have. We have already received a lot, and it is all very much appreciated.

I have heard the phrase "we can do this" a lot this weekend. If we work together, I am sure we can!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Pearson".

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal