

Remote Learning

Firstly well done to you all for getting back into the saddle, battling with the technology and supporting your children with their lock down learning once again! We are really thrilled with the level of engagement from the children and that is really down to you!

When schools were closed last March, remote learning was completely brand new to all of us. I think between us, we did a pretty good job! The displays on the corridors at school bear witness to this (you can see some of them on the video for new parents on the school website).

The DfE has now set very clear expectations about what remote learning should look like and how many hours of work should be provided:

- For KS1 – 3hrs a day
- For KS2 – 4hrs a day

With these new requirements, it is going to be a steep learning curve for all of us. There will be times when the technology will let us down at either end (I know that staff feel anxious about this, especially if families are on the other end waiting). If you log on and there is no sound or video or some other problem, then please just log off and try again. Please do not stress or panic, have a go at something else instead if it doesn't appear to be working.

As I have said before, we have tried to limit the number of live sessions because if you have more than one child or you do not have enough devices, the sessions may clash. To help with this, teachers are also trying to record their sessions so they can be accessed later.

We hope your children are enjoying some of the new features like the 'check-ins' or live stories so they can see their teachers and their friends. Please remember, the register is there to help you as parents to motivate your child. It is not there to cause you stress, if you cannot get there on time because you are juggling children or your own home working please don't worry!

It may not be perfect straight away but we will negotiate our way through together and I am sure it will evolve as we go! It is important that we do not lose sight of the bigger picture, which is getting through this pandemic whilst continuing to be healthy, physically and mentally. We must all try to remain calm, patient and recognise that if the odd lesson doesn't work out, it is not the end of the world. We worked hard to catch the children up last term and we will do it again, so all we can do at the moment is our best and not lose heart if occasionally things go wrong.

I am so proud and appreciative of the lengths the staff have gone to try to grapple with the new systems they are using. It may be completely out of their comfort zone, but they are desperate to do their best for your children whilst still providing for the children in school as well!

If you are struggling to access remote learning because you either do not have enough devices, or your connectivity is not working well enough, then please let us know. We are in the process of trying to acquire more devices to help with connectivity

Domestic Violence

Whilst we ask people to keep away from school during a pandemic, anyone suffering from domestic troubles or abuse should know that the school is a safe space to which you can come and we will shelter you until any help you need can be sourced. You do not need to ring ahead, just turn up if you need help.

Attendance

The most recent guidance from the government reaffirms critical workers should keep their children at home if they can and that these children should only attend school if being at home means that their parents are unable to attend to their critical work.

As such, children of critical workers should only be sent to school when their parents are carrying out their critical work and kept at home on days when either their parent is not working or there is another parent available to care for them. We appreciate your support on this. Thank you

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 **Website:** www.willand.devon.sch.uk **Email:** admin@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk

Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com>

Feeling isolated?

Please look out for each other and please do not suffer alone if things become difficult. Schools can be a good conduit for support and we have helped families during the previous lockdown and already during this one. Please let us know if you require support as agencies are still operating and we can help trigger some intervention if it is required.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is much harder for schools when the children are not in school. The whole community has a duty to safeguard its vulnerable children, and if you have concerns about a child you should either contact the school or MASH directly on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and give as much information as you can.

Lunch Menu for week commencing 18th January 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken Goujons	Pepperoni Pizza	Roast Beef Yorkshire Pudding Gravy	Pork Meatballs	Fish Fingers
<i>Quorn Dippers</i>	<i>Cheese Pizza</i>	<i>Quorn Sausage</i>	<i>Vegetarian Balls</i>	<i>Cheese Wheels</i>
Rice/Pasta Mixed Vegetables Tomato Sauce	Potato Wedges or Pasta Sweetcorn	Roast/Creamed Potatoes Fresh Carrots	Spaghetti Green Beans	Golden Fries or Pasta Seasonal Vegetables Tomato sauce
Chocolate Cracknel with a slice of apple	Fruit Jelly	Cheese, Cracker & apple slice or Fruit Smoothie	Lemon Cake	Oat Cookie
PASTA POTS with Italian tomato sauce or cheese available every day except Wednesday.				

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and that this new lockdown is not proving to be too challenging or difficult.

Best wishes

Anne Hawkins

Headteacher

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 **Website:** www.willand.devon.sch.uk **Email:** admin@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk
Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com>

Safeguarding - From time to time the school may need to make referrals to Children and Young People's Services