

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter another strange time of learning and education, we are sure that many of you may be feeling apprehensive about how the next few weeks will unfold. We hope that this email will help to ease some of your concerns and will answer some of the questions that you may have.

To help us to work together to keep your children safe whilst working online and to help you to understand the new expectations around remote learning, we have produced a new Remote Learning Policy. Please can you read this and discuss it with your child.

Since the previous lockdown when schools closed in March 2020, the government has changed the requirements for home learning. Schools are expected to provide between 3-5 hours of education each day for children to complete. Following your feedback after the previous school closures, we are hoping to introduce several new features for home learning including a weekly timetable available on Sunday evenings, daily registration, teacher check-ins, and some live streaming using Google Meet - please bear with us as we develop our skills!

The aim of the daily registration is to help motivate your child to get ready to work. This is also the case for the live streaming events. However, we understand that this may not be possible in some households due to work commitments, access to devices, etc. For this reason, we will endeavour to set all work from Monday to Sunday to allow flexibility around when the work is completed (there may be an exception next week whilst we are still preparing resources). We have avoided live streaming the majority of lessons as we are conscious that it may be difficult for many children to access live streaming in one household at one time and we want to ensure that not all activities require screen time.

Many of our parents found the following tips helpful during the previous school closure:

- Keep to a timetable wherever possible.
- Create and stick to a routine if you can. For example, English and maths in the morning.
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership.
- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible. Conversely do not continue with something that is causing stress. Come back to it when you are all ready.
- If you have more than one child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household.
- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.
- Stick the timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.
- Try to incorporate some exercise and breaks into each day.
- Make use of the garden if you have one, or leave the house for physical exercise as permitted by the government

We have also attached a number of documents to support you and your child with the practicalities of online learning whilst using Google Classrooms which we hope will be helpful.

Google Classroom Parent Help Guide

Are you new to Google Classroom?

Please refer to document 1 – ‘Parent Help Step 1’.

Did you know that you can access Google Classroom on a range of devices such as X-Box and PS4?

Please refer to document 2 – ‘Setting up Google Classroom on different devices’ for help with this.

Do you know how to join a classroom?

Please refer to document 3 – ‘Parent instructions joining a classroom’.

Are you having trouble logging in?

Please refer to Document 4 - Before requesting a password reset, refer to our ‘Login Troubleshooting’ guide.

Do you need a password reset?

Please email the year group email (using the addresses in document 3) and we will send you a new password and instructions to set it up.

We hope that your child enjoys participating in Google Classrooms and that it is not too daunting for you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries.

Keep safe and keep well,

Miss Hawkins (Head teacher)

Mrs Pauline Maynard (Willand School Online Safety Co-ordinator)