

Shirley Infant School

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Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Shirley Junior School



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5th October 2020

Dear Families

We want to update you on where we are with our remote home learning. Our plan was to have Google Classroom running and for you to be using to access spellings to get used to the system now. The staff were trained on the INSET days and were very ready to go with this. This unfortunately is not working out as we had hoped so we are informing you of the following plan. Apologies in advance; this is a long letter, but one with an important and necessary purpose. In guidance for reopening schools, the government have made clear the need for learning to continue at home if a child is required to isolate (Remote Learning). We are unfortunately not in the position we wanted to be in with our remote learning. This letter is to give our families information and guidance on how we can work together to achieve this if the situation arises. Remote learning will be required if:

- A child is isolating for 14 days due to a family member testing positive for Covid-19.
- A child is isolating for 10 days due to a positive case of Covid-19 but has recovered from the symptoms.
- A positive case of Covid-19 is found in school, which results in a 'bubble' having to isolate.
- A local or national lockdown which requires school to close.

If your child is absent from school and suffering symptoms of any other illness they are **not** expected to complete remote learning. If your child is absent from school for one of the four reasons noted above, they are **expected** to complete daily Remote Learning at home. If your child is absent from school for any other reason this will be an unauthorised absence and Remote Learning will not be set for your child.

We have two different remote home learning packages.

- The first is if your child is awaiting a test or self-isolating individually to their class
- The second is if we have to close a class bubble.

These will be emailed out to you in each of the relevant classes.



EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE, EVERY DAY

The big difference this time around is that we will be expecting you to submit your child/ren's work. You will receive feedback from the class teacher on the task and guidance, to add support or challenge to the learning, will be shared. This will be individualised for a child or groups of children based on the work they have submitted. We acknowledge that this may feel like a more rigorous approach than that followed by us during school closures over the Summer. We also understand the burden of expectation put upon parents who continue to work at home while isolating. This is the same expectation put upon all families with children in all schools during this time and, while we will likely share your frustrations at this, I am certain that we all share the same belief that children's progress in learning cannot go interrupted any longer. We know that, particularly with English and Maths, a significant amount of adult support will be required. Although Phonics videos etc. can be watched by children independently, infant aged pupils do require adult support throughout their learning and they cannot work entirely independently. Therefore, from this understanding and from the phone calls we made during lockdown we know this was your biggest stress. Therefore, we have decided to prerecord our teachers delivering the lessons so you can work school around your work if you need to. We believe it is so important to have the contact with the children. We were not able to do as much as we wanted to last time round. Therefore, in this scenario if the 'bubble' closes than every day at 12:00pm we will have a 'live' storytelling session. We hope this fits with lunchbreaks for those of you who are working and juggling everything. We are still hoping to deliver these via google classroom. If this cannot be the case, we may resort back to zoom as we did in June.

We have been trailing a two-week clear plan which we have received strong positive feedback from our parent forum. Therefore, we will continue to use this format. This proposed timetable allows for a lot of time in between activities, more than is usually available in school, but this is because we anticipate the level of support at home will be greater than in the classroom. Please ensure your child gets small breaks during this 'extra' time, to move and stretch, as this best mimics a normal school day. Because completion of this work is expected, and no longer recommended as in the summer term, we will call you on the third day of your child's absence if you have not yet submitted work your child has completed. If you have an issue with accessing or completing any of the work with your child, please call or email the school office who will forward your query. We will inform you of the system we will use to submit the work shortly. We still promote that reading is the fundamental skill that must be practiced daily. This is the biggest gap we have seen in some of our children returning from the Lockdown period.

I know this is a lot of information to process and you may view the likelihood of having to access this as relatively low. It is important for us to have the systems and processes for continuity of education in place so that we are prepared if the need arises. It is insurance for our children's education. For now, the only actions you need take are to ensure you have access to Rising Stars Reading Planet and Marvellous Me. We advise you check you can log in to these systems now so that you have immediate access if needed. Thank you for giving this your attention. I am happy to answer any questions you have but ask that you have re-read this document. Please email these in the school email.

Once again we cannot thank you enough for your continued support. The children are doing so well in school and have been so resilient. We believe this is down to the joint relationships we have with you and the 3 week PSHE focus we have had. The children have now moved into more formal learning and we are finalizing our baselines of the children's gaps this week.

With best wishes going forward. Please continue to keep each other safe and following government guidance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gregory'.

Mrs C Gregory

Headteacher