



## End of Week 2 15th January Update on Remote Learning

I wanted to take this opportunity at the end of week 2 to say a few words about remote learning and expectations and express our thanks.

Firstly, I should say my words come from my perspective. I realise that we are not all the same and you may totally disagree with me - that is fine!

We are a local authority school, led by the government and their decisions and requests and we follow these measures as much as possible. I take this very seriously and unless I believe that the safety and well being of the staff are at risk, then I do this.

I also am open to the views of our children and parents and listen and review where necessary. Views are very varied and in some cases contrasting, which makes a 'one size fits all' approach impossible at times.

In October 2020 the government made remote learning statutory for children who were affected by COVID 19. We acted accordingly, creating a Remote Policy that we felt best matched the needs of our school community and varying levels of access to remote learning.

We took every opportunity to improve the access of remote learning and issued 27 devices to pupils with a further 14 having been requested when the government released our quota last week. This has supported many more of our families, who were unable to access learning online during the last lockdown, and the positive impact of this has ensured we have around 85% - 90% of the children accessing online learning to some degree which is amazing.

This said, I am very aware that many of our families, who do not fall into certain criteria, also struggle with access for their individual children - parents are having to share their work devices to allow their children to access learning which then has an impact on their ability to perform their job.

Working from home and educating your children is **incredibly difficult**, especially when support is needed due to either their age or because something is harder for them to understand.

Our teaching staff are doing an amazing job at posting lessons/tasks/instructional videos and providing online learning to support the children in addition to the "live lesson" meets throughout the week, available to all of the children.

Ofsted have published a document on 11 January 2021 sharing “what’s working well in remote education” and we believe that what we are doing at WECPS is in line with what is deemed to be working well, but we realise this will not be the case for all. Unfortunately, in the present situation, we cannot meet those individual needs in the same way.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

We have been asked by Ofsted and the Government to continue to deliver the curriculum as we would if we were in school and so this is what we are trying to do, using blended learning. It is a continuous and building curriculum that develops lesson after lesson and day after day - hence my request for children to try and keep up with the learning where possible. **We know this is very difficult, especially for parents who are also trying to work from home at the same time.**

The LA have informed us that whilst Ofsted are not doing their usual inspections they are following up concerns and complaints regarding the remote learning offered by schools.

Ofsted use our website in the first instance to see what we are doing and we would like to create a section of positive feedback to share on the site. We have received many comments of thanks and praise for the teaching staff which is wonderful to see - they are truly appreciated by all. If you would like to send any positive comments then please email Mrs Leyssens [leyssens@whitley.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:leyssens@whitley.n-yorks.sch.uk) who will share them on the website.

Obviously, please continue to contact me if you have any concerns - [headteacher@whitley.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@whitley.n-yorks.sch.uk)

### **How we can help you cope with the concept of remote learning?**

#### **Remember to ...**

- Keep your family safe and well , both physically and mentally
- Do what you can in terms of learning and share this with your teacher.
- Remember that education is not just the things we teach at school - I bet so many learnt so much yesterday in the snow!
- Don't think you are failing if you have needed to work or spend time with your children in other ways.
- Try not to worry that your children may fall behind - we will deal with this on our return to school and support them.
- Follow the CHaS values of Caring, Helping and Sharing.

We do not have all the answers but the one thing we do know is that working together and keeping your families safe and happy is what we fully believe will help us survive in these crazy times.

Thank you to all the school staff who are doing an amazing job at maintaining the education of the children across the whole school, thank you to the children whose bright smiles and efforts make the work worthwhile and thank you to all the people at home who are supporting the learning - it truly is a **TEAM** effort.

Stay safe and take care over the weekend.

Miss Langridge and all at WECPS