

Tickford Times

8th January 2021

Remote Learning Update

Welcome back...in a manner of speaking!

Whilst this is not the start to 2021 that we had all hoped for, I'd like to thank you all for your support over the past week. I've been very appreciative of the encouraging feedback that we've received from parents and I'm grateful to the team in school who have worked tirelessly this week to quickly transition to our revised model for home learning and onsite provision.

We understand that supporting your children with their home learning is not easy, particularly when you are also working from home or juggling other responsibilities. At Tickford Park, we are committed to continually developing our provision and supporting you as effectively as we are able during this school closure.

Over the next week, we will be adding Recorded Instruction to our home learning provision. This will consist of short videos that teachers will prepare and share to help pupils with some of the activities that they will undertake during that day.

The following week, commencing Monday 18th January, we will be introducing live sessions for the children to attend from home. We will send out further details of these sessions – including timings and how to attend them – over the coming week.

Keyworker Provision

As you will be aware, the school remains open for children of keyworkers and vulnerable pupils. We've revised our model this term to support these children in year group bubbles. This enables the pupils onsite to receive high quality teaching which is more accurately matched to their specific needs. In addition, it enables us to keep groups smaller and reduce mixing of staff within bubbles, thus minimising the risk to both pupils and staff.

This does mean, however, that each year group will have a maximum number of pupils, dictated by the number of adults and classroom space available. In a couple of our year group bubbles we have either reached, or are very close to, this capacity. As such, our response to any further requests for keyworker provision will need to take this into consideration.

If you do request keyworker provision in the future, please be aware that it may be necessary to offer your child a place outside of their usual cohort, in a year group bubble that has not reached capacity, for example. We understand that this may not be a perfect solution but it is important that we retain our existing model.

It is our intention to offer provision on site to all those who genuinely need it, whilst retaining a safe environment. Please, therefore, do not request this provision if you have the capacity to keep your children at home. Cases of Covid-19 locally are exceptionally high and we want to keep as few pupils as possible in school.

Hot Meals

As you will have seen on Class Dojo this week, we are offering Hot Meals or Sandwiches for pupils attending our onsite provision. These can be ordered by completing the online form [here](#).

A menu for the week is available [here](#), on our school website. Please place your orders for the week by 6pm on Sunday 10th January.

Children who are eligible for free school meals – including all children in FS, Year 1 and Year 2 – will not be required to pay for these meals. All other meals will be charged at the usual rate.

I hope that you will join me in thanking Charlotte, our school cook, for her hard work this week in preparing and serving hot meals for children onsite at such short notice.

Meal Vouchers

Any pupils eligible for means-tested free school meals who are remaining at home will continue to receive vouchers over this half term. Vouchers will be sent out each week, via e-mail. Please note that this does not include pupils who receive free school meals because of their age.

If your children have a place in our onsite provision, they will not be eligible for vouchers as they will be able to access free school meals in school each day.

If you have any question regarding meal vouchers, please get in touch with [Louise Andall](#), our School Business Manager or send a Class Dojo message to myself or Ms Chapman.

School Office

Please note that our school office will be unmanned between 12:45 and 1:30pm during this period of school closure. Please avoid calling the school at this time if at all possible. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Resource Packs

Over the next week, our teaching team will be putting together resource packs for children who are learning at home. These will include exercise books for children to use to record written tasks and some other useful resources such as number lines, depending on the age of the child.

These will be available to collect from the school at a specified time. Please keep an eye out on Class Dojo for further details.

Home Learning Model

We will continue to publish, each week, a remote learning overview that will give you an idea of the activities that your children will be covering throughout the week. These will be shared on Class Dojo and the *Home Learning Blogs* on our school website.

Each day, one teacher will be responsible for supporting remote learning in each year group. They will do this by sharing resources on the Home Learning Blog, reviewing submitted work and answering your questions.

Your child can submit work by completing the forms provided, or via their Class Dojo portfolio. If you need some help with this, Miss Hall has made a very helpful video which can be seen [here](#).

Children in Foundation Stage should continue to submit their home learning on Tapestry. If you need help with this, please speak to your teachers.

Children as Learners

We understand that there are many challenges associated with supporting your child's learning at home. You all know your children well as a child but may be now getting to know them as a learner – which can sometimes be very different. We are presently working on a simple guide to send out to you, which we hope will help you with this process. In the meantime, we'd like to share an interesting article about '*knowing your child's learning style*' which we hope that you might find helpful. You can read the article [here](#).