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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I was really hoping that I wouldn't ever have to resurrect my weekly school closure updates to you – but we find ourselves here again. During the school closure period, I will continue to put together a weekly letter for you. This will include any further news and developments regarding school attendance for key workers or remote learning for those of you at home. I apologise for the amount of content this week but there's obviously a lot of ground to cover.

Thank you so much to everyone for your patience this week as we get into our stride with delivering simultaneous remote learning and face to face learning. The expectations this time round are very different to that of the first lockdown. Continuity and consistency are now key. This means that we are required to deliver a home learning package which will be comparable in curriculum content to that being delivered in school and that all those at home should engage with this. The concern, of course, is that the children are now away from school for a further extended period of time and that we must do all we can to ensure that they continue to receive a quality curriculum that will enable them to make progress. Further details about our remote learning package is outlined below.

For those children at home, we will be checking in with you over the term to see how things are going either by email or phone but please let us know if there is anything that we can help with. The Government have made further announcements this week regarding support with technology during the school closure period and further details about this can also be found below. I hope that there will be some suggestions in this that will help out our families.

I know that the situation we find ourselves in is far from ideal. Thank you for your continued support in making things work as best we can. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that we can help with.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas holiday. I'm sorry that I haven't been able to catch up with you and find out about all the things you did over the break. I hear that there was no 'naughty list' this year so I hope that you all got some great presents.

It's felt very strange not seeing you all in school again this week. It's very quiet! We are all missing you. I hope that those of you at home will enjoy joining in with the interactive sessions that your teachers have put together for you. I'm sure that it will be nice seeing everyone on the screen. If you haven't had any of these sessions yet – don't worry we have things planned for you very soon.

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

Attendance at School for Key Worker Children

We currently have about 120 key worker children attending school each day. This is still a large number and means that year group bubbles are operating at an average of 19. We are spacing the children out in the classrooms to minimise as much close contact as possible. At the moment these numbers are just about manageable but further requests for places will become significantly problematic in some year groups. Currently, one member of the teaching team in each year group is on site to deliver the face to face sessions and the other is at home running the remote learning side of things for the remaining children in the year group. Having to bring a further teacher from each year group back onto site, in order to keep numbers low in each room, would weaken our remote learning capabilities which is something we have to avoid – those children at home need to have as much quality provision as possible. The purpose of this period of school closure is to keep regular numbers of children in school as low as possible. **The latest Government guidance published yesterday states that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.** Please only take a key worker place if you have no other options.

We have asked that attendance from key worker children must be full time. This is to make the groups in school manageable and to ensure that the children have consistency in their learning. We would all tie ourselves in knots if, on a Monday in one year group, we had just 3 children and on Tuesday we had 18. Under the current expectations, this wouldn't provide consistency for anyone. We have to balance safety, consistency and manageability in the best way that we can.

If your circumstances have changed and you no longer want a place, please email Mrs Partridge at schoolclosure@godinton.kent.sch.uk

Remote Learning

Those children who are unable to come into school should engage in the daily remote learning tasks set on the school website. These cover maths, English and learning adventure work (including science, geography or history).

You will find your child's year group remote learning page under the tab 'Remote Home Learning – School Closure 2021' on the main menu. Each day is clearly labelled and the tasks to be completed and the support materials or videos to help, are clearly identified. Content is uploaded by 4 p.m. ready for the next day.

The content of our remote learning package will mirror, as far as possible, the work taking place in class. I appreciate therefore that the daily tasks set might seem a lot, as I've said before, please do what you can. Set yourself a goal for what you want to achieve. The more you can encourage your child to do, the more it will help. If you need to prioritise, work on English and maths tasks or if your child is finding it difficult to engage, start small and work

up to more when you can. If anyone needs any advice on supporting children who are struggling to engage in remote learning tasks – contact your child's teacher through the year group parent email.

The teachers have enjoyed seeing the children's response to the work that has been set so far this week. The best way to send work in for feedback is to take a photo on your phone and email it across to the year group email. The teachers will vary the feedback you get through the week – some days it will be longer than others in order to ensure that all the children get what they need during the week. This may be written feedback or an audio clip.

Your child can still earn house points for their remote learning. The teachers will let them know in their feedback if they have earned a house point – these will be added to your child's chart in class. They may also receive a gold card. In this case, work will be forwarded onto me so that I can have a look and I'll get in touch to say well done. I'm looking forward to this. Year group staff will contact those parents who we haven't heard from to see how things are going and to offer further help.

If you need a new book, please come and collect a one from the school entrance foyer. We have set up a box of exercise books which can be accessed between 10.00 a.m and 2.00 p.m and then again between 3.30 p.m and 4.00 p.m.

We will endeavour to keep our remote learning as accessible as we possibly can and will offer sufficient variety to enable families to have the flexibility to make this best fit their circumstances. We know that a prescriptive daily timetable of interactive sessions at a set time for each year group would not work for all families for example. Firstly, it would be impossible for us to timetable these to avoid clashes between different year groups and secondly we are very aware that parents working at home may need more flexibility. We are therefore balancing live interactive inputs with pre-recorded videos which can be watched at a time of convenience and as many times as you need. Teachers look at what curriculum content needs to be delivered and consider the best way to do this. This will be different for different year groups and will be determined by a range of factors.

We have started to roll out our interactive Zoom sessions this week. Access codes will be sent out using ParentMail ahead of the sessions. Below is our offer for next week, the following week will be different again.

Year 1 Zoom Sessions

Tuesday 12 th January	9.30 – 11am (30 min sessions)	Year 1 children will be divided into 3 groups each having a 30 min slot	Handwriting	Led by Mrs Jones
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Thursday 14 th January	9.30 – 11.00 (30 mins sessions)	Year 1 children will be divided into 3 groups each having a 30 min slot	Phonics	Led by Mrs Jones
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Year 2 Zoom Sessions

Tuesday 12 th January	10 to 10.30 Ladybirds 11.00 to 11.30 Butterflies	Children will be split into class groups	Catch up and story for Learning Adventure	Led by Mrs Walker
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Year 3 Zoom Sessions

Friday 15 th January	Group 1: 1:00 Group 2: 1.30 Group 3: 2:00 Group 4: 2:30	Year 3 children will be divided into 4 groups each having a 30 min slot	Catch up and questions	Led by Miss Jones
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Year 4 Zoom Sessions

Monday 11 th January	Nightingales 9.00 – 9.30 Kingfishers 10.00 – 10.30	Separate session for each class	Maths	Led by Miss Brooker
Thursday 12 th January	Nightingales 9.00 – 9.30 Kingfishers 10.00 – 10.30	Separate session for each class	Maths	Led by Miss Brooker
Friday 13 th January	Nightingales 9.00 – 9.40 Kingfishers 10.00 – 10.40	Separate session for each class	Quiz time	Led by Miss Brooker

Year 5 Zoom Sessions

Wednesday 13 th January	10.00	All Year 5	Year 5 grammar surgery. Looking at direct speech.	Miss Attenborough
Thursday 14 th January	9:30 – 10:00	Cuckoo Class	Catch-up (informal session to see how everyone is getting on at home)	Miss Attenborough Mrs Spriggs Mrs Hubbard
Friday 15 th January	Grp 1 9:30–10:00 Grp 2 10:15–10:45	The children in Cuckoos will be split into 2 groups	Year 5 Maths feedback and discussion	Miss Attenborough Mrs Mechie
Friday 15 th January	Grp 1 11:15 – 11:45 Grp 2 12:00 – 12:30	The children in Magpies will be split into 2 groups	Year 5 Maths feedback and discussion	Mr Smith Mrs Mechie

Year 6 Zoom Sessions

Monday 11 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Mrs Partridge and Mrs Stein's Maths group	Dividing Fractions	Mrs Partridge & Mrs Stein
Tuesday 12 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Mrs Partridge and Mrs Stein's Maths group	Four rules with fractions	Mrs Partridge & Mrs Stein
Tuesday 12 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Lewis Group	Multiplying Decimals by integers	Mrs Crowfoot
Tuesday 12 th January	Group 1: 11.00 Group 2: 11.45	Year 6 will be split into 2 groups	Learning Adventure: Explanation of how fossils are formed.	Mrs Clark
Wednesday 13 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Mrs Partridge and Mrs Stein's Maths group	Fractions of an amount	Mrs Partridge & Mrs Stein

Wednesday 13 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Lewis Group	Multiplying Decimals by integers	Mrs Crowfoot
Wednesday 13th January	Group 1: 11.00 Group 2: 11.45	Year 6 will be split into groups	Year 6 Learning Adventure: Mary Anning	Mrs Pemberton
Thursday 14 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Mrs Partridge and Mrs Stein's Maths group	problem solving with fractions of amounts	Mrs Partridge & Mrs Stein
Thursday 14th January	9.30 – 10.00	Lewis Group	Dividing Decimals by integers	Mrs Crowfoot
Thursday 14th January	2.00 Falcons 2.45 Eagles	Year 6 will be split into groups	Sharing of completed Mary Anning work	Mrs Pemberton
Friday 15 th January	9.30 – 10.00	Lewis Group	Dividing Decimals by integers	Mrs Crowfoot

We are also looking at other opportunities that we can offer to our children working at home. We will let you know more details once we have worked out our plan of action.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting learning at home. We know that this isn't an easy task so please let us know if there is anything that we can help with.

Support with Technology for those Children at Home

The Government have started to roll out their technology offer to support families at home who are struggling to access remote learning due to limited technology. We have now received 12 laptops which we will be in a position to loan out to families next week. The Government have also outlined details of their plan to support children in accessing the internet at home where no wifi is available. This includes an increase to a parent's mobile data allowance or with the loan of a router.

On Monday, I will be sending out a form which will need to be completed to express your interest if you need help with either of the above.

With only 12 laptops currently available we will need to allocate on the basis of greatest need. Please therefore only complete the form if:

- The only device that you have at home is a mobile phone (you have no tablet or laptop / PC in the home) and that by having access to a school laptop, your child would be able to complete their daily remote learning tasks.

- You have no wifi at home and would benefit from the use of a router or top up to your data allowance in order to be able to access the daily work tasks set on the internet.

I anticipate that further devices might become available to us in which case we will be able to extend the number of additional families we are able to support. I will keep everyone updated. If anyone has any other specific difficulties, please let me know and we will see if we can help to find a solution for you. No tasks set by the teachers will require printing.

Food Parcels for those Children Entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals

On Monday, a further food parcel will be available for collection for those families whose children are entitled to benefit related free school meals and are currently at home. This parcel will contain food items to make lunches for a two week period. These can be collected from the school office between 11.00 and 2.00. If anyone is self-isolating, please let us know so that we can make an alternative arrangement for you.

Homework Trails

We are looking forward to seeing the children's efforts with their Term 2 Homework Trail. We always see an imaginative and creative response from a high number of children and good levels of effort are applied. As we couldn't hold our Homework Showcase for all the children this week we have put the following arrangements in place.

Those children in school should bring their homework into school on Monday 11th January so they can show it to their bubble. If your child is at home, hold onto your homework. We will see the Term 2 and Term 3 homework together when the children are back in school after half term at the Homework Showcase on Tuesday 23rd February. We want to ensure that these children have the opportunity to have their work celebrated in school. Stickers and house points will be awarded in the usual way.

The Term 3 Homework Trail will go live next week. This should be completed over the term by all children.

Children's Wellbeing

We know that this further period of disruption will present challenges to the mental health and wellbeing of some of our families. January is often a difficult month for many and this year is of course presenting additional burdens.

The Schools Health Team have provided a set of short videos with easy to understand messages to help parents to support children's resilience. They cover a wide range of topics such as 'how to help your child understand feelings and emotions' and 'how to support your child with hobbies and interests'. They are certainly worth a watch.

The videos can be accessed via the following link:

<https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/resources/resilience-webinar-for-parents/>

If anyone needs any help in managing wellbeing at home either for themselves or for their children please get in touch. Our Family Liaison Officer, Jacqui McGibney, will be looking at other ways in which we can help support families during this time.

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please remember to notify the school in the event that your child demonstrates symptoms of coronavirus or if they are self-isolating as someone in their household has symptoms and is undergoing testing.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher