



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a good week and that home schooling is going smoothly! I am sure you will all have good days and bad days as you juggle the demands of supporting the children as well as working from home yourselves. We all really appreciate everything you are doing in challenging circumstances.

I wanted to write to you to update on some changes we are making to our remote learning provision, in response to rigorous Government guidance:

- Children in KS 1 (Years 1 and 2) must do 3 hours of learning
- Children in KS 2 (Years 3-6) must do 4 hours of learning

Ofsted and the Government strongly advocate a blended approach of some live teaching and some independent tasks for the children to complete.

Therefore, we are going to introduce the following learning opportunities into the children's day, building up gradually to the Government requirement:

- Starting on Monday 18th January:
 - Children will have a 30-minute Guided Reading session once a week, in small groups of 6 or so children. This replicates what we would do in school usually for Guided Reading, i.e. children in small ability groups. Teachers will be posting on the class blogs this afternoon which day your child needs to be on the live session and the exact times.
 - In Years 3-6, if it is not your child's day for guided reading, the teacher will be setting other work covering a range of non-core subjects, such as PE and music to be completed during this time. This element is optional in Years 1 and 2. Children will need log on details for the music tasks, which we will email on Monday.
 - There will be a new 30-minute lesson in the mornings for children to complete tasks independently. These will be tasks such as Times Tables Rock Stars, Reading, Spelling etc.
- Building up further, from Monday 25th January we will introduce a *whole class* lesson into the day. This will be great in enabling the children to see all of their class friends and feel part of a 'whole' again.

I have attached the timetables for you to see how the remote learning will look once the full provision is running from **Monday 25th January**. The subjects in the afternoon may vary slightly, which of course the teachers will tell you about via the class blogs, but the timings won't change.

The teachers are all working hard ensure that some tasks over the week involve getting away from the screen. We want to balance children having to sit looking at the screen against being active and moving.

I appreciate these changes will potentially put additional demands onto families, but so much was learnt from the previous lockdown and children must really continue to attend a *school day* with all its learning opportunities, but whilst staying at home!

The Government are very clear that we must continue to follow our curriculum and deliver sequences of lessons, enabling the children to not fall behind with their learning. We are keeping to half classes for

English and Maths as this is allowing good interaction between the teacher and children and giving opportunities for targeted teaching and questioning.

All live lessons will continue to be recorded so it gives families a degree of flexibility. On that note, teachers have fed back that some children are sat in bed in their pyjamas during the lessons. Please can all children be up and dressed ready to start their learning at 9am.

A small minority of children are not submitting work following the independent tasks. The expectation is this must happen. Please refer to the user guides and video clip if you are struggling with this. We are obliged to contact families who are not completing work to unpick why and ensure this is rectified.

Support staff will routinely continue to phone families once a fortnight; this will of course be more frequent if there are concerns flagged. Staff are thoroughly enjoying these phone calls. Please encourage your child to speak to the member of staff where possible.

For children in Reception and nursery, your provision will not be changing at the moment, except for children in Reception who will be having two live lessons starting next week. Please look at the attached timetable. We are constantly reviewing Nursery provision and will communicate when necessary. However, at the moment, our risk assessment is that the number of cases in the wards our families live are too high for us to safely open our nursery, except for children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

On that note, unfortunately, cases in the Cherwell area are now significantly above average, including more specifically in our immediate area. As of this morning, the cases in the Ruscote ward (which covers the Bretch Hill area) is 1348.8 per 100,000 of the population and 952.2 for the Neithrop Ward. These are the wards where the majority of our families live. Nationally it is 583.4 per 100,000 of the population. Therefore, **please follow the advice to stay at home.**

We have been busy calling all of our critical worker families this week to really tease out who desperately needs to attend our critical worker provision as unfortunately, the reality of the risk involved in attending hit home this week when we had to partially close one of the critical worker bubbles due a positive case. Please only use our provision as a last resort.

I appreciate there is so much to get your head around; we are certainly having to work in different and creative ways. But we are here if you need any help or support. The office emails are checked every evening and at weekends. We may of course not respond straight away if it is out of hours, but rest assured your emails will be read and passed to the relevant person.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries,
Keep safe,

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
Head Teacher