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Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for your responses to our remote learning survey.

It has been really interesting to hear what is working and what needs to be developed, but what is very clear, is how incredibly hard you are all working to do the best for your children.

We have said all along that we want to continually develop our remote learning provision and your feedback is a very important part of this. We know that for many reasons learning at home can never fully replicate the school experience, but our aim is to keep looking for ways to get as close to it as we can.

Given that we will not return to school until at least 8th March and now that we have tried a few things out and gathered your views, it is a good time to tell you about our next steps and some of the rationale behind them. There is a lot of information in this letter, so please make sure you read it carefully. If you do not see your views reflected in the updates, it is important to know that they have been taken into account and will form part of our future thinking.

I appreciate that you are all settling into routines, so apologies for adapting/ rescheduling sessions that you may just be getting used to.

The time table updates will begin next week: **Monday 1st February**. So that we can let you settle into routines, we will not make any major timetable changes over the coming month.

Class 1 Updates

We will keep the structure of Class 1 learning the same for now, but we are changing some of the live sessions based on some of the feedback that we received. We have also attempted to minimise timetable clashes for those of you who have children in both classes.

So that the children can make the most of the calls, we have split the group into two. The main change is that reception children will now have two sessions with Mrs Newman where they will have the opportunity to do a short phonics session. Mrs Newman has also added a 'drop in' session for anyone in Class 1. This gives you and the children an opportunity to ask questions, talk things through or just to share their work. It is also a good excuse to see their friends!

Class 1 Google Meet Sessions		
	11:00 am - 11:25 am	1:15 pm - 1:30 pm
Monday	Year 1/2 : instructions for week ahead and story	Reception: phonics session and story with Mrs Newman
Tuesday		
Wednesday		Class 1 drop in
Thursday		
Friday	Year 1/2 : celebration and sharing	Reception: phonics session, celebration and sharing

Class 2 Updates

From next week we would like to update our approach to maths and English lessons. Here is a summary of the changes:

Class 2		
Subject	Method of delivery	Rationale
English	Daily online lesson using Google Meet	<p>We would like to develop our timetable to include 5 'live' daily English sessions for Year 3/4 and 5/6. English lends itself more to teaching 'live' in this way, as writing can often be differentiated by outcome, rather than setting differentiated tasks. By splitting the children into smaller groups - 3/4 and 5/6 - we will be able to spend more time focusing on each child.</p> <p>We would like all children to try and attend these sessions, although we understand that this may not always be possible. If there are any issues which mean the 'live' lesson cannot go ahead (either on our end or yours) or your child cannot attend, the lessons will still be available in presentation form (i.e. Powerpoint) on Google Classroom.</p> <p>Please make sure that your child has their red book and pencil ready for the lesson to begin at 9:15 promptly.</p>
Maths	Pre-recorded White Rose plus additional tasks and daily drop in session.	<p>The White Rose videos follow the scheme of work that we use. They allow the children to work at their own pace, but at the same time, provide a challenge for those who need it. We also have 4 year groups in Class 2- each needs a completely different maths lesson.</p> <p>Therefore, we have rescheduled/adapted our 'drop in' sessions to provide support around maths.</p> <p>These sessions allow the children to work at their own pace alongside a member of school staff, giving them the opportunity to ask questions if they get stuck.</p> <p>We understand that White Rose can be challenging at times, so we will now add an alternative task for your child to do if it is too much of a struggle.</p>

		Drop in sessions are not mandatory but are recommended; this way your child can work alongside a member of staff, giving the opportunity to address misconceptions in a timely manner.
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Class 2 Google Meet Sessions						
	9:15 am - 10:15 am	9:15 am - 10:15 am	11:00 am - 11:45 am	11:00 am - 11:45 am	1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	2:00 - 2:45 pm
Monday	Year 3/4 English lesson with Mrs Kirkham	Year 5/6 English lesson with Mr Cook	Year 3/4 Maths drop in with Mrs Kirkham or Miss Schrader	Year 5/6 Maths drop in with Mr Cook or Miss Schrader		
Tuesday	Year 3/4 English lesson with Mrs Kirkham	Year 5/6 English lesson with Mr Cook	Year 3/4 Maths drop in with Mrs Kirkham or Miss Schrader	Year 5/6 Maths drop in with Mr Cook or Miss Schrader	Year 3/4 PSHE with Mrs Farahar	Year 5/6 PSHE with Mrs Farahar
Wednesday	Year 3/4 English lesson with Mrs Kirkham	Year 5/6 English lesson with Mr Cook	Year 3/4 Maths drop in with Mrs Kirkham or Miss Schrader	Year 5/6 Maths drop in with Mr Cook or Miss Schrader		
Thursday	Year 3/4 English lesson with Mrs Kirkham	Year 5/6 English lesson with Mr Cook	Year 3/4 Maths drop in with Mrs Kirkham or Miss Schrader	Year 5/6 Maths drop in with Mr Cook or Miss Schrader		
Friday	Year 3/4 English lesson with Mrs Kirkham	Year 5/6 English lesson with Mr Cook	Year 3/4 Maths drop in with Mrs Kirkham or Miss Schrader	Year 5/6 Maths drop in with Mr Cook or Miss Schrader		

Organisation of resources on Google Classroom

For the Class 2 children, you will notice that the organisation of maths resources on Google Classroom will be a little different from next week.

We have assigned a separate maths folder to each year group. Each folder is divided into the 5 days of the week. Each day contains a video, a worksheet, an extension and an alternative task for anyone who is struggling. This also allows you to submit work on a daily basis, rather than in one go at the end of the week.

We will also schedule the work to appear in Google Classroom at a slightly earlier time - 3 pm on a Sunday.

Printing work

Please let us know if you would like work printed out for you; all you need to do is contact your child's teacher and you can pick it up on a Monday. Similarly, if you need paper, we will put some in the boxes outside school so that you can pick up at your convenience.

Parent advice

We had some great advice from parents on how they're surviving home learning. Some made us smile a lot although I'm not sure I can publicly advocate some of the coping strategies we read!

Here is a selection of some of the tips, ideas and advice that represent the general themes that came through:

"If something isn't working, come back to it another time. It can be hard and it can be intense for the children so don't feel you have to push through, you can revisit when you're both more receptive to learning."

"I am just trying to tap into the approaches that work with my child."

"Keep a sense of humour if at all possible!!! Try not to get super stressed if they don't want to do it....it just becomes a horrible battle of wills and learning should be enjoyable...always."

"Routine definitely works for us... always have a break if things become too stressful and try not to feel too guilty if things don't always work out how you want them to."

"Make sure they get PE every day - even a 10 minute home workout if it's raining outside."

"Scanning work using an iphone if you have one is much easier than a traditional scanner. I submit all work entirely using my phone."

"I also print off the Monday- Friday list and all the work sheets on Sunday night so I can cross off..."

Assembly

Similar to during the last set of school closures, I will now begin doing a weekly assembly. This will be pre-recorded and posted on a Friday to Google Classroom.

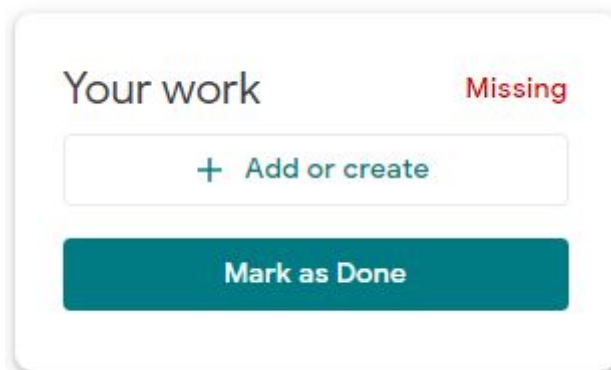
Zoo Lab - Virtual Visit

On Wednesday 3rd February we have arranged a virtual visit from 'Zoo Lab': <https://www.zoolabuk.com/>. This will take place on Google Meet at 11:00 am for Class 1 and at 1:00 pm for Class 2. The children will get to see and learn about some exciting animals from around the world; supporting the English tasks they will be doing throughout week.

Both sessions will last about 45 minutes. They will not take place in the usual Google Classroom areas, so links will be sent out prior to the visit. Thank you to FOLS for funding these visits - they should be a lot of fun.

Submitting Work

More of you are now regularly submitting digital copies of your child's work via Google Classroom. As mentioned in my last correspondence, the best way to submit work is by using this function:



This way, we can give feedback and next steps in a much more timely manner, using a voice message or a written note. Please note that you should still return your children's lockdown work when they return to school.

I would like to reiterate one of the key points in Susan McCraith's recent letter; there are many obstacles to providing a home education that is comparable to the school experience, but they are there to be solved and our mindset has always been to keep developing what we provide. We must continue to work as a team to make sure that all the children get the best possible education during this tricky time.

Once again, thank you for your support. I hope to update you in the near future, but in the meantime, keep going - you are all doing a great job!

Best Wishes

Mr Cook