

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/carers

Remote Learning

Firstly, let me say that all school leaders appreciate what a stressful time this is for everyone, especially those parents who are working from home and/or have several children and educating their children during this lockdown.

We know this will not be an easy task for many of you for various reason so please do reach out to us if you need support or guidance with anything.

As mentioned previously from Monday 11th January all remote learning will be delivered via TEAMS.

By now you should have received your child's login details for this. If you haven't please contact the teacher responsible for the relevant year groups remote learning.

As mentioned previously, some teachers are responsible for providing the remote learning. Other teachers and support staff are responsible for in-school learning and provision.

Just as remote learning is a learning curve for you; it is the same for our teachers. They have received no official training in delivering lessons remotely and have spent the last few days upskilling themselves. Therefore, if there are any technical difficulties please bear with us.

We know many of you are anxious about using TEAMS but delivering learning this way will enable a two-way process to happen between the teacher and the children. It also reduces the need to deliver paper-based packs and risking transmission of any virus.

During lockdown and remote learning if you have any questions relating to using TEAMS or the work set you must contact the teacher responsible for this and not the school office.

Remote learning Responsibility

Reception: Mr Cohen

Year 1: Mrs Evans

Year 2: Mrs Lewis

Year 3: Mrs Goodwin

Year 4: Mrs Allen

Year 5: Mr Marsh

Year 6: Miss Watson

Devices

As a school, we know that many of you have limited access to tablets, laptops, ipads or a computer. We have recently discovered that TEAMS can be accessed using an xbox or playstation too, so you might want to explore this as a device to use.

If you are struggling with access to devices please let us know. The Government have stated they are increasing the number of devices available for school to send to families who are in this position. However, each school has only been allocated a certain number of devices, based on free-school meal numbers. Only allocation is lower than we would have liked.

Primary schools are not able to request their's until the end of next week at the earliest, as secondary schools have been given priority.

Completing work set

It is also our duty to monitor those child who are and are not accessing remote learning in whichever form. If your child is not accessing this on a daily basis we will be contacting you to discuss this issue, as it is important that all children access some form of education.

If your child is accessing our in-school provision there is no expectation that they access the remote learning too. This applies to the days they are in school.

Quality of Provision

All school leaders are aware that Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has urged parents to contact OfSted if they have concerns around the quality of the remote learning provided.

School leaders across the country are out-raged at this divisive statement.

Be reassured that all staff within a school are working flat-out during this lockdown and have been since the start of this pandemic. I most certainly cannot sing enough praises for how staff at Birklands have pulled together to support all of our children and each other.

We would hope that if you have any concerns your first port of call would be either the teacher or me, as Head of School.

Finally, please do not put too much pressure on yourselves. Try to set a regular slot each day for your child to access their work. This may deviate from their normal school hours due to family circumstances. You have to do this in a way that suites your circumstances.

I hope this clarifies everything for you. Please get in touch if you do have a question or need something clarifying.

Remember to stay home and stay safe.



Mrs C.A. Smith (Head of School)