



'Together in God's Love: aim high, stay strong, be determined.'

St. David Haigh & Aspull C of E Primary School

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Friday, 15th January 2021



Headteacher weekly update – Remote Learning

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the first couple of weeks of term. Your support has allowed us the time to review the existing offer, taking into account all aspects of the current situation including government guidance, any parental requests / concerns and general feedback. I am now in a position to share with you our updated remote learning offer. **Also attached for your reference is our Remote Learning Policy 2021, please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with its contents, thank you.**

From Monday 18th January, all children will begin accessing their remote learning via Microsoft Teams. (Our Year 6 children already access the Teams platform successfully.) This will be a transition week as we move away from the current School Spider system (due mainly to a number of limitations within the platform) and migrate our remote learning to MS Teams; this will allow us time to address any issues around access or training needs for staff and parents. So yet again, I ask that you bear with us during the transition period – but I know the outcome of the move to Teams will make both the communication with, and return of work to your child's teacher, far more effective.

PLEASE NOTE: The School Spider app will continue to be used for messaging parents, along with email communication. If you have not already done so please download the school spider app, select our school and sign in with your parent details sent previously (not your child's details). I would also recommend enabling notifications for the app so you will receive alerts of any communication sent out via the app – thank you.

It is important to note that as is current practice, you will still have the option to email your child's teacher directly on their school email account; bearing in mind that they will respond when possible and during agreed times. They are therefore your first point of contact as we make the move over to Teams.

Remote Learning Offer

In-line with current guidance, our remote offer will provide as a minimum:

- KS1 children the equivalent of 3 hours work daily (this may be slightly less for Reception);
- KS2 children the equivalent of 4 hours work daily.
- For all children, this will be a range of learning including:
 - Spellings / Phonics
 - Maths
 - English
 - Wider curriculum – including RE and Science
 - Reading – specific text based sessions
 - Practising and developing key skills such as handwriting and multiplication tables

This work will be facilitated through a blended approach with a mix of:

- Live 'Teacher Check-Ins' at least twice daily (to be reviewed during next week) please note that these live sessions will be recorded as per our Remote Learning Policy 2021 which can then be shared to those unable to attend. Following the live check-ins, teachers will keep Teams 'open' (without video active) so that they are able to respond to questions posted in the 'chat' area, from those children working at home, who may need support / clarification of the work – however, please bear in mind that staff will also be teaching some children in school at the same time and will respond as soon as possible to 'chat' comments;

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- Video tutorials that will be available at any time within your child's Teams area (especially useful for those families where there is limited access to live sessions due to other household members requiring devices for remote working). These will be either pre-recorded by the teacher, or high quality tutorials from our agreed school curriculum resources (e.g. White Rose Maths tutorials);
- Self-directed independent tasks to complete between the live check-ins; and
- Weekly 'Wellbeing' sessions (currently via Zoom – although this will from next week be hosted within Teams and one of the afternoon sessions below).

Initially, we would like all children (with a Parent / Carer) to log in to MS Teams, find their Team, and respond to the 'Conversation' posted by their teacher today. This will allow us to assess who has been able to access Teams, and identify those who may require additional support. Your child's individual Teams user details will follow in an individual email after 4pm today. If this does not arrive, please email me directly at covid@saintdavidswigan.sch.uk thank you. Teams is best accessed through a laptop or desktop computer for full functionality, although a tablet or smart phone can also be used if necessary with some limitations. To join the meeting, you will need to download the Microsoft Teams App on the device that your child will be using for Home Learning (if possible) and login with your child's username and password. You should then be able to click on your child's class and join the meeting.

Live 'Teacher Check-Ins' – details:

- **9.00am and 1.00pm – Classes 1 and 5 (Miss Partington & Mrs Stubbs)**
- **9.30am and 1.30pm – Classes 2 and 3 (Mrs Winrow & Miss Ingham)**
- **10.00am and 2.00pm – Class 4 (Mr Atkinson)**

(These staggered times allow for siblings in different classes to have opportunity to access the sessions)

The morning session will be to check attendance, give an overview of the work for the day (or morning), including any video tutorial content that needs to be accessed and main learning expectations. The afternoon session will again check attendance, a brief review of the morning work, introduce the afternoon learning and answer questions as required. (Remember – the live sessions will be recorded and will be available in the 'Files' area of your child's Class Team, shortly after the session ends). We must be strict on the timings above, so we allow equal opportunity for all year groups to access the live sessions with their teacher.

Attendance at any 'live' sessions is expected and will be monitored by the school; contact will be made in the event of any regular non-attendance. If you have any issues with access, please contact the school as detailed below. Parents are asked to notify their child's teacher via email if they expect their child not to be present for any live session as this will aid us in our monitoring of attendance.

Returning completed work

The method of returning a completed piece of work to staff is very similar to the current method for school spider, i.e. uploading an image or document. Within Teams, in your child's account, they will have an option to return work from their assignments page.

When they have completed a piece of work, they click 'Add Work' below the assignment; find the file they want to send (usually from the 'device'); click 'Attach' (and repeat for multiple pieces of work / files)...then in the top right hand corner of the assignments page, click the purple 'Turn in' button. (Should any families require printed work packs, please email your child's teacher directly or contact the school office.)

For those of you who use a mobile device to photograph or scan a piece of work, you may find it easier and more time effective to use the MS Teams APP. This is a free app available to download from your preferred app store.

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Regarding access to online learning

We have already identified and provided laptops for families, who have contacted school directly, as they do not have access to a shared device on which to engage with remote learning. We have also contacted families, where a lack of technology has been raised as a concern. If you do not have a shared device to enable your child to access remote learning, please email covid@saintdavid.wigan.sch.uk as we may be able to support you. In addition, if you do not have fixed broadband at home or cannot afford additional data for your device in order to access remote learning, please also use this email.

Alternative devices

You may already be aware that both PlayStation and Xbox devices can be used to access most online learning platforms. Although we have not tested either, as this is relatively recent information, below are links to respected websites that have information on how to use these gaming devices to access online learning:

<https://www.tes.com/news/how-use-xbox-or-playstation-online-learning>

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/xbox-playstation-online-learning-classroom-teams-zoom>

<https://www.techradar.com/uk/how-to/how-to-access-home-learning-on-ps4-and-xbox-one>

The remote offer is designed, and work is planned, so that those identified children who are accessing in-school provision will have the same learning opportunities as those accessing remotely, from home. We feel that the transition to MS Teams will allow for this to be maintained (and developed) in the weeks ahead and help facilitate vital 'live' contact between home and school.

School Meals

All those children who are entitled to free school meals, and are accessing in-school provision, will continue to receive a school meal. For those children who are accessing remote learning, provision is now in place and further details will follow as a result of recent government announcements.

All children who access in-school provision will be able to order a school meal, via the usual methods of the Evolve system – the full menu will be available from Monday 18th January. We kindly request that any children wishing to have a school meal order at home and in advance, to allow for this service to be maintained. (The usual method of payment via the ParentPay system will continue where relevant.)

Please also bear in mind with the heavy demand, occasionally platforms like MS Teams, struggle with the amount of traffic (or users) accessing the service, this can at times cause delays in connections and/or variation in quality of audio or video (especially when live) – so please be mindful of this as we go through the week and let your child's teacher know of any issues in respect of the above.

Thank you again for your continued support. Any further developments or changes to the above will be shared in my weekly update on a Friday, until further notice.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. Woods
Headteacher

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