

Tuesday 29th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your responses to our recent survey with regard to the home learning that operated through last term and your thoughts with regard to moving forward. Nearly half of all families responded – thank you.

During lockdown, and once some classes could return, everyone, staff, children and you as parents worked extremely hard to enable rich learning to continue in very challenging times. It is in response to this survey, as well as government guidance, that we have shaped our home learning/blended learning offer. We know that many of you are working parents and that you will want to support your child wholeheartedly but also need to fulfil your job responsibilities. We understand that this is a significant challenge. Thank you for all you did with this regard last term and we hope that our offer moving forward enables a balance of pastoral and academic support from school to enable your child to complete their core learning in line with the rest of the class, but also in a manner that is manageable for you as a parent.

The government have stated that when devising our contingency plan for our remote education provision that it needs to be equivalent in length to that delivered in school. When we asked you about this in our survey 91% of you stated that you did not feel this would be possible. As a consequence we are requesting if and when you require this online provision that you focus on the expectations for Maths and English as a priority each day.

Our home learning offer will continue to use the school website as the portal through which all learning is explained and we will continue to use our school You Tube channel for videos if the whole bubble is isolating. We have created year group e mails to enable dialogue between home and school and as an avenue through which home learning can be uploaded and sent back for the class teacher.

As you can appreciate, the offer if your child is self-isolating whilst the rest of the class are in school will be slightly different from the offer if the whole year group is isolating, as the class teacher will be managing two groups of children at the same time. The use of videos and 'live catch up session' will only operate if the whole year group are not in school. Please refer to the grid attached to this document to see what the learning will look like in each scenario.

From the survey we know that 57% of children shared a device so we are planning to keep 'live' learning limited. However, 84% of you felt that our weekly 'catch up' would be very worthwhile so this will be live each week if the year group as a whole has to self-isolate. Also, 46% of you felt that phone call communication would be helpful so again you and your child will receive a weekly phone call from the TA. The year group e-mail will be manned by one of the year group team each day between 8.45am and 3.15pm so you have swift responses to questions raised. If the class are still in school but your child is self-isolating this will be checked at times through the morning, at lunch and then again at the end of the day. 28% of parents felt that more personalised contact would be helpful and we hope this facilitates that desire. Phone calls and the year group e mail will happen as soon as any child is isolating. On your child's first day of isolation, they will log onto the website and click on the tab 'Isolating Home Learning', they will then complete the 'Day 1 Getting Started'

tasks. Then from day 2 they will go into the same portal and pick up the learning for the day. This will be in line with the home learning year group timetable. The daily learning will look very similar and run in the same way as the learning did last term if your child was out of school after half term. The learning will be supported with daily Powerpoints for Maths and English but may also use Oak Academy and White Rose material. The daily schedule will signpost you to the websites you will need. Staff will also supply worksheets for the majority of tasks as 55% felt these greatly helped you as parents when working from home.

If the whole year group is out of school, we plan to use video as an explanation tool for Maths and English each day as well as supporting this with Powerpoints and worksheets. We recognise that you felt the Powerpoints were at times too lengthy and we will aim to keep these precise and succinct.

We have also attached to this letter a 'Home Learning Responsibilities and Behaviour Charter'. It outlines expectations and responsibilities for all parties. We would like you to discuss with your child and both sign and return it to school. This can be done by scanning it back in and sending it to the year group e-mail or physically sending the returned document back to your child's class teacher.

As I have said, each year group will have an e mail through which you can communicate and also upload your child's work. Many of you felt this was difficult but the government have stated that teachers need to be able to gauge how well children are progressing and they need to see and respond to learning in order to make this judgement. 20% of you said you want feedback in relation to your child's learning and again this is only possible if staff can read and mark what your child has done. The easiest way to do this is taking a picture on your phone and then sending it in via the year group e mail. The teachers can then 'mark' it and send personal feedback. As the maths learning will be self-marked, please use the year group e mail if your child is struggling with understanding and then a member of the year group staff will be in touch via phone or e-mail.

With regard to the other learning set, we will request that three additional pieces be e-mailed back each week into school. This may include a selection of reading comprehensions, art, RE, science or topic. We are setting learning right across the curriculum range as children need to have 'meaningful and ambitious work [set] each day in a number of different subjects'. We will send you a 'how to' guide to help you access this home learning. We have greatly valued your input when devising our offer and during this term we will be transferring our remote learning onto our O365 platform. This will enable a greater degree of interaction and we will update you of these changes as they develop.

Please complete the behaviour charter and return it to school via your child's year group e-mail, eg year6@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk. Please insert your child's year group and complete one form per child.

Thank you for your continued support in this very challenging time.

Best wishes,



Mrs A Alden

(Headteacher)