

Friday 15th January 2021

As we come to the end of the first full week of this lockdown, I would like to thank all parents and children who have tried so hard to engage with home learning. There have been mixed results due to technological issues but I feel it will get better as time goes on.

Home Learning

Teachers are aiming to do about 10 zoom lessons across the week now and it is expected that children join. Parents have to treat these invitations like a proper class session and try to ensure children join. If a child is ill or attending an appointment then that is fine, we understand. Please try and let us know that you can't attend online. But it is vital that children try and join at all other times to ensure learning is not missed. We will follow up missed lessons with a phone call. This lockdown is a bit stricter in terms of learning and all schools are trying to ensure children keep making progress.

I mentioned last week that you should try and keep children in a routine. Don't let them stay up late and get them up and dressed in the morning. If they laze around in bed then they will miss learning and fall behind.

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF_Supporting_daily_routines_during_school_closures.mp4

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Summary_of_Resources_-_Parents.pdf

Any technological issues can be sorted, just let us know and someone will talk you through a solution. If you have borrowed school equipment then you really must make the effort to join.

As a guide, KS1 children are expected to complete 3 hrs a day and KS2 should be 4 hrs a day. This does not mean 4 hrs of direct teaching though. It can mean a mixture of direct teaching, engaging with online resources, reading, watching BBC progs, PE, making bread etc etc.

I have started dropping in on class Zooms. They are great and children enjoy seeing each other and their teachers. Today, there were 10 children from Whinfell and 6 from Delamere. No-one was in the Epping lesson but there was a technical issue.

It was lovely to see the children but these numbers aren't high enough. If more children attend Zooms then we won't need to make welfare calls and it will be less bother for you.

Mental Health

I will continue to share mental health activities that children can use. These are some BBC videos about keeping healthy in mind and body. I hope they are useful.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/pshe-early-years-foundation-stage-ks1-feeling-better/zm2st39>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/super-movers/pshe-super-mood-movers/zm2gydm>

Free School Meals

I am pleased that the food parcels have been well received. There will be one more week of food parcels. You may have heard about vouchers starting soon but we will continue parcels. Orders had already been placed so it would have been unfair to cancel at the end of the week. Next week we will start organising vouchers which will commence from January 25th. Hopefully it will be more straightforward than previous.

Lending Library

If you want to borrow a book then it is ok to pop up, perhaps as part of your daily exercise routine so you aren't making unnecessary journeys.

Please do continue to check the website for updates. We post information and school-specific guides there.

<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you ☺