



8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We find ourselves once again in a full lockdown situation and staff at Marcham CE Primary School have been working to create learning opportunities for your children while they are away from school. For some of you, it may be something that you can take in your stride. I know that, during the first lockdown, lots of you were able to embrace the time you had to work alongside your children in a way that perhaps you had never done before, and build stronger and wider relationships because of it. For others, however, the thought of another lockdown may leave you feeling overwhelmed, and having to oversee work being sent home for your child might not help. I want to reassure you that, whatever the work may be, it is not meant to cause you additional anxiety. This letter sets out what you can expect from us, what we can expect from you but also give you some perspective which helps us all to thrive over the coming weeks.

School Work

Work has already been set via Google Classrooms or paper copies of work delivered to you. However, it was clear that some of you felt that, during the first lockdown, there could have been more direct engagement with the children and this was noted in the questionnaire set by governors. We have listened to what was said. We are keen to improve and increase interactivity and connection between pupils and teachers in order to provide the best support we can. And so in the light of that, this is what you can expect for all pupils from Yr 1 – Yr 6:

- A shared story at least 3x a week.
-This links very much with the Reading Pledge your children will have taken. We read a story with the class and we expect them to read at least 10 mins a day in response.
- There will be a Google Meet for each class during these weeks:
Week beginning 11th Jan; 25th Jan; 8th Feb.
- There will also be a recorded assembly every week.

In terms of the tasks set, this will be very much in line with the work set during the previous lockdown. We have aimed to provide work which we can monitor through Google Classrooms, and provide tasks which do not always need a computer or the internet to complete.

- Maths – Our main resource is White Rose Maths. There may be videos attached which the children can see to help them make sense of what is being taught. There may be other supplementary work and, of course Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars.
- English – There will be a range of reading and writing tasks as well as spelling practice.
- Other subjects – This will be dependent on the class topic and themes and may include both creative and physical challenges.

In order to support this work, each class will have at least one session each week where there will be the opportunity for live feedback with the children. This may take a variety of forms: e.g. groups of pupils may be put together to address a particular issue, or it might be a whole class session to discuss the outcomes of work or introduce new learning or even have individual meetings. This will differ from class to class and even from week to week but it will be an opportunity for the children to have access to their teacher so that there is progress. There will be a defined time for both the Google Meets and the feedback sessions. These will be shared with you by the class teachers and more details will be given by them. Please note that these meetings are for the pupils only and not for the parents. A protocol for these meetings will be sent to you.

Staff in The Pandas will continue to use Tapestry as the medium through which work may be set.

We are expecting that children do all they can to complete the work that has been prepared and we know that you will do your best to support them to do that.

However, we are not expecting you to run a full day, like we would do in school. Many of you will be working at or from home yourselves and will not have the time to devote to undertaking all the tasks set with your children and we absolutely get that there may be fixed commitments as a part of your own job. There may also be pressure on technology. If it means that your child has to miss out on a Google Meet or feedback session, then please do not despair. We will understand. We are in extraordinary circumstances and we can only do what we can do. We are also very conscious that having to facilitate your child's learning at school 'from a distance' is no easy task – especially with young and primary aged children. If your child is not having a great day with the work set and needs to spend time playing with Lego, or baking, or watching TV before they re-engage, then that is your choice and it is okay for you to make it. There is nothing to feel guilty about. You are your child's first and primary educator. Our increased accessibility is to support your children, not to pressurise you.

Having missed out on schooling in the first lockdown, we want to do all we can to build on our children's learning - and there are lots of new things to learn. We hope that, together, we can do that and help our children to flourish.

Please look after yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely

V. Hutchinson

V Hutchinson

Headteacher
Marcham CE Primary School

