

Dear Parents

Firstly, we hope that you are all keeping well. Last week was a difficult one for everyone but we hope that you and your children are keeping safe and are managing to get into a routine during the days at home.

Remote Learning

Thank you to everyone for attempting some home learning at the end of last week and now into this week. We weren't expecting to have to move to remote learning quite so rapidly and these first few days have been all about getting set up on the various systems we are using and finding ways to communicate lessons and work with you all. We are all learning as we go and our offer is likely to evolve as we find out what works well and what doesn't.

We have realised this week that we need to set some guidelines around feedback on work. Firstly, ALL work completed at home and sent in to school will be responded to. Staff will be available during regular teaching hours 9am-3pm to respond to any work submitted. We are very aware that every family's circumstances are different, so some children will be completing work outside of these times. That is absolutely fine (and to be expected!) and this work should absolutely still be submitted. Where work is submitted after 3pm, it may not receive feedback until the following day, but it will be responded to. Children in Rubies and Sapphires should get used to checking the previous day's work on Showbie before they move on, so that they see any feedback given. The same will apply to emails. Please try to email during the school day, but where this is not possible, staff will do their very best to reply as soon as possible, but this may not be until the following day if received later in the evening. The admin email address is monitored regularly for anything very urgent.

Keeping Safe Online

As the majority of the children are now working at home and using various systems to access work, it seems like a sensible time to remind ourselves about keeping safe online. This is more relevant for children in Rubies and Sapphires, but could also provide topic of conversation for younger children too. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- There is no need for children to sign up to software or websites for remote learning with personal email addresses, always use the school details provided.
- Talk to children about keeping login details and passwords private.
- Showbie has the Class Discussion available (when the teacher has turned it on). Remind children that they should write in standard English only and that staff see their messages too. They are part of a digital environment and their behaviour impacts on its success. They should not say things in the digital world that they wouldn't say in the real world. Good digital manners are a good skill for life!
- Never share personal information online (full name, date of birth, location, phone number etc). Please don't take or share screen shots from systems such as TTRockstars, Showbie or SpellingShed which contain other pupil's details.
- Remind your child never to accept instant messages, phone calls, screen sharing or files from someone that they don't know.

- Always talk to a trusted adult if they see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Family Circumstances

We are very aware that this is a difficult time for everyone, and that it puts pressures on everyone in many different ways. It is really important that your child completes as much of the work set as is possible but, more importantly, it is vital that you try to keep in touch with us. Not just to send children's work, but we need to know about things that are happening that might make learning difficult, such as

- Illness in the family (we need to know if your child or direct family members have Covid-19, or if the illness is affecting them in any way via other family members).
- Also these circumstances have affected jobs and people's finances and we would urge you to get in touch if you think you may be entitled to a food hamper or if you need support because of this. We may be able to direct you towards an appropriate agency.
- Technological issues.
- Moral support!

It has been great to speak to lots of you over the last few days by phone and email as we have all been getting set up. We are here to support you so please just let us know if we can do anything to help you.

Best wishes for a positive week.

Mr Gibson, Mrs Kelsey, Mr Rickaby