

Heckington St Andrew's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



8th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

First of all well done - we have made it to Friday! I know how challenging this week has been for everyone, but you are all doing a fantastic job! Now that the chaos of the last couple of days has begun to settle, I thought it might be useful to explain a little more about home learning during this lockdown.

This lockdown is very different to the last one in that the government are expecting much more from schools and parents in terms of home learning and have given very clear guidance about what should be happening. As a staff (many of whom are also trying to work and home school themselves) we know how hard this is for parents and want to try and help you as much as we can with this whilst making sure every child gets the learning they need and deserve.

Technology

As you'll already know, all learning this time is through Tapestry for Reception and Seesaw for Years 1 - 6, this is because we need to be able to communicate on a daily basis with you and your child about their learning in order to be able to help, support, challenge and teach them as closely to how we would if they were in school. If you are finding technology is an issue for you please get in touch with us and we'll do whatever we can to help.

What's expected?

Reception and KS1 children are expected to do a minimum of three hours a day of learning and KS2 (Years 3 - 6) are expected to do a minimum of 4 hours a day. This guidance was only just updated yesterday and so we are aware that the expectations for KS2 have increased. Teachers will set work that fits into our carefully planned curriculum so it's important that you complete the work set rather than anything you might find on the internet or your child may have gaps in their learning when they return to school. Teachers will adapt what they set for your children in future learning tasks according to the work returned and any feedback you share about how your child is doing so it's important to let teachers know if your child is finding the work too easy or too difficult.

Live Lessons

You may have heard lots about the idea of 'live lessons' where the teacher teaches live at set times. We are worried that this will cause some children to be disadvantaged if parents can't get their children on technology at these rigid times, maybe due to their own work or having to share technology. Instead, teachers will be pre-recording videos and clips which can be viewed at a time to suit you. Teachers will, however, try to do a live 'drop-in' each day where you can join the live session via Zoom to ask questions about any of the work and perhaps see some of their classmates. If you want to talk about something more personal regarding your child, please don't discuss it in the live drop-in but ask your teacher to contact you separately as the drop-ins can be accessed by the whole class. Additionally, teachers may be inviting children to work in small groups for activities such as guided reading. A Zoom link will be sent out for these group sessions.

Weekly Support

Teachers will do regular wellbeing checks, and we will be contacting you if your child is not engaging at all with the home learning. Please note that, depending on where they are working from on that day, the number may show as 'withheld' rather than the school number.

Teachers are still working with children in school on a rota basis and will, as you'd expect, be less available on those days to respond to messages and offer support. If you get very stuck and don't feel able to wait for a reply, ring or email the school office and we'll see what we can do.

Physical Activity

PE is a bit tricky to manage at home but we know how important physical activity is to children's health. The last lockdown was a little easier as we had that beautiful sunshine which made us all want to be outdoors but, this time, it's a bit chilly and miserable. Mr Powell and Mr Steed will post some activities via Seesaw to give you some ideas for activities you can do. We'd love to know how you get on; hopefully better than my efforts with Joe Wicks!

Children Working in School Part Time

Some of our children are in school on some days and at home on others. These children need to do the home learning on their home days in the same way as all of the other children. They will be completing their home learning whilst in school with the support of their group staff so that all children have the exact same learning whether they are in school or not. In this way we hope to make sure everyone is in the same place and ready to fly once we reopen.

We got through the lockdown last year by working together and supporting each other and I have no doubts that we will get through this again. Be kind to yourselves and take care and stay safe.

Warmest wishes,
Judith Bentley

How to apply for free school meals

We are currently providing food parcels for any children who are eligible for income related free school meals.

If your family is facing hardship and your financial circumstances have changed, please see the following link for further help available;

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/apply-free-school-meals>



Please activate parent pay to keep up-to-date with all communication.

Email us on enquiries@heckington.lincs.sch.uk to request another activation letter.