

Preparations for Online Learning In the Event of a School or Bubble Closure

Dear Parents,

I'm just writing to let you know about our plans for taking the school on-line in the event of having to close a year bubble, or the whole school, or if there is a more wide-spread Covid lockdown.

What will happen if a year bubble has to self-isolate or if the whole school has to close?

On the first day of closure work will be posted on your child's Google Classroom. From this point onwards, we will be able to offer live lessons online for the children. This will occupy them from 10-3 (with 45 minutes for lunch) so it'll be very different to the first lockdown, where children worked as and when they could. This will be much more like a school day, just on-line.

We've worked out a timetable for each day which looks like this:

On-line daily timetable	
10.00-10.30 am	Yrs. 1-6: Reading Masters/Phonics
10.30-11.15	English
11.15-11.30	BREAK
11.30-12.15 pm	Maths
12.15-1.00	LUNCH
1.15-2.00	Topic
2.00-3.00	Reviewing learning, marking work handed in and feedback to pupils
3.00-3.30	Marking and feedback for individual pupils if needed.

This will be the same if an individual year group bubble must close, or the whole school.

How will each teaching session will work?

At the start of each session teachers will be on Google Meets live for between 10 and 20 minutes (in EYFS it's likely to be nearer 20 minutes). They'll deliver a lesson just as in school, possibly also using Loom and Jam Board and they may also have pre-made slides to talk through with the children. It'll be very much like a lesson in the classroom, just delivered online.

Teachers will then remain online so they can deal with questions as they come up, again just as if the lesson was happening in the classroom.

What if a child misses a lesson for whatever reasons? Will they be able to catch up?

Yes indeed; the Google Meets sessions, and any of the Loom and Jam Board things will be recorded and can be accessed later if the pupil isn't online at the time of live delivery. This means that previous learning can be watched back later, if a child needs more help with a lesson they found difficult or missed. We'll be showing the children how to do this and preparing them for it.

What about parents? Are you expecting parents to be sitting with the children and interacting with the teachers?

No. We're expecting that the online interaction should be between the pupils and teachers. In most cases it will be easier for the parents to leave their children to it and not get involved, though of course with younger children they might need a parent or carer in the room with them. But we strongly ask parents not to interact with the teachers during lessons; we understand how tempting it will be but it'll really hamper the learning if teachers are having to deal with parents as well as the children!

What if parents do need to communicate with a teacher about something?

If you have a general query about the day's learning then please leave a message on Google Classroom. If you would like to speak to the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team about something more private, then please call the School office and we will schedule a call.

Will the school be doing a register for children, as if they were at school?

Yes, there will be a daily register taken, and we will have to follow up with parents if their children aren't taking part, just as if they were missing days at school.

What do we do if we can't get online?

We know that the technology is tricky for some parents, and there is help available from the school if your child will have trouble accessing the lessons through the internet using a computer, laptop or tablet. If parents are worried they should get in touch with the school office now so that we can try to get help in place ready. If you are still unable to access work online arrangements can be made for you to collect workbooks, stationery and printed work from school. Again, please contact the school office to arrange this.

What about if children become anxious about the changing circumstances, or show signs of anxiety during lessons?

Teachers will be keeping a close eye out for signs of anxiety in children. If we see anything we're concerned about, we'll be in touch by phone with parents. Obviously if parents have concerns too they should ring the school (020 8678 6530) to let us know and we will organise for a teacher to call them back.

Kind regards,

Tom Prestwich
Headteacher