

**ORTON C.E. SCHOOL**

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Head teacher: Mrs Emma Pomfret

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**KEEP SAFE - Very Important Home Learning Contingency**

Although everything is currently going really well in school we need to ensure we have plans in place to make a quick switch to home learning in case of a 'Bubble' or whole school closure. Whilst of course we hope that we will not have any closures at all there is an inevitability that at some point 'Bubbles' will be affected by a closure and we want to be as prepared as we possibly can be.

During the national lockdown our priorities were happiness and safety and we provided education that families could engage with as their circumstances allowed. We all had to learn quickly as we moved to home learning but our rapid response meant we had lots of success stories throughout lockdown. It has been interesting to see that some of our early assessments show us that those children and families who did engage with what we were providing and reading regularly have on the whole maintained their progress. Thank you for supporting your children and us so well.

Unfortunately, it is likely that we will experience a 'Bubble' or even whole school closure at some point so it is vital that every family is in a position to support their children with the home learning we provide from the outset. In any future partial or whole school closures it will be an expectation that **every** child engages with their online learning that will be provided through 'Teams'. If we have any partial or whole school closures at any point we will immediately resume home learning and will be continuing with the curriculum that would have been taught in school. This means that any children that do not engage with this learning will miss out on important chunks of the curriculum that may not be covered in school again. Please support your child to access any home learning.

Most of the home learning provided will be in a similar format to what was provided previously and closely reflect what would have been taught in school during that time. This means that children will be able to access the majority of their learning at a time convenient to you as a family. However, we will expect to see evidence of completed work e.g. files returned to the teacher / responses to questions / photos. In addition, we will be planning some virtual face to face time which children will be expected to attend. This maybe small group work to go through past or future work and will vary depending on the class. We will keep records of engagement with home learning just like we would in school.

Of course taking part in this online learning requires access to appropriate technology. Over the coming days please take some time to consider how you could manage this at home. No children should miss out on their home learning due to limited or no access to technology. If you need any help providing a device or internet access for your child please let us know ASAP but no later than Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October and we will try to help find a solution. If you are looking to find a way of providing a device for online



learning you might find Chrome books a cost-effective option; this is simply meant as helpful advice not a requirement.

**Please spend some time in the coming days re-familiarising yourself and your child with their Office 365 'Teams' log in.** Your child's log in details will remain the same as previously but there is a reminder below. Please keep this information in a safe place so you have it to hand should you need it

<https://www.office.com/>

Child's Name - «Display\_name»

Email Address - «Username»

Password – «New\_Password»

In addition to the learning that will be on Teams below are a reminder of the other activities that the children can and should do to regularly if they find themselves at home having to self-isolate.

**Reading** – Daily reading should be given the highest priority. This is vital for long term success even with our older children. Little and often and choosing a time when your child isn't tired is the key with this. The more you can do to support your children the bigger the impact you will have not only on all of their education but on their whole lives.

**Phonics** – Children in Classes 1 and 2 need to continue to practice their phonics using their phonics cards and activities they have in their bags.

**Times Tables Rocks Stars** – <https://ttrockstars.com/>. All children in Classes 2, 3 & 4 have accounts with TT Rockstars. We have included your child's log in information to Times Tables Rocks Stars – please keep this safe. Please get your child to practise regularly, this is the perfect time for your children to get themselves really fluent with their times tables – trust us it will make such a difference to all their maths work. Children are expected to be fluent with their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4.

**Purple Mash** – <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/orton-ca10> We have included your child's log in information for Purple Mash. FOOS support us by paying for this each year which we are very grateful for. Purple Mash has a wealth of educational resources and the children enjoy using it. The class teachers may direct the children to an activity through your class 'Team' or set them 'To Do's' within Purple Mash.

**Learn It's** – We have included your child's latest Learn It that they can keep practising. The Learn It's shouldn't be completed but the calculations revisited often so the children can answer them without having to think. This is all about getting the children to have very rapid recall of basic number facts.

**Discovery education** - <https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/> This is another resource we subscribe to in school that your child can access. There are two parts to Discovery Education one is coding which we use in school to teaching IT coding skills and the other is Espresso which has a wealth of curriculum resources that the children can access. Our school log in details are;

**User name:** student9635

**Password:** coding



**Spelling Frame** – We have included log in details for Class 3 & 4 who can continue with their spelling practise. We are using Spelling Frame in class for these two classes. Whether they are at home or school the children can keep up with their weekly spellings, practise them by playing the games and take part in the test each on Friday.

**A Few Extra Bits** – There are also many educational websites that are offering free access to parents e.g.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>


<https://www.thenational.academy/>

For our older children we will also be sending home a lined and a squared paper exercise book for them to work in should we experience a partial / whole school closure. Please keep these safe so they are available when the children are directed to use them by their teacher.

Please keep all this information in a very safe place so it is ready for when / if you need it. If we do need to have a partial or full closure it is likely to be at very short notice.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch as always we will do our very best to help.

Take care



Mrs E Pomfret  
Headteacher

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