



6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to last night's letter, I would like to offer some reassurance to parents about our expectations of children at home.

It is very difficult for us to ensure the balance is right between expectations for remote learning set out by the Government and the individual needs of all our families.

Learning from home will be an entirely different experience for each and every family. We recognise this completely and we will work with each family individually to ensure they feel as supported as possible during these difficult times.

We do not want our learning offer to cause undue anxiety or stress for our families and would like to reiterate that our morning and afternoon Zoom sessions are not 'compulsory' at all. I apologise to any parent who may have interpreted our recent letter in that way. Daily Zoom sessions were requested by many parents and so our teachers worked hard to be able to deliver this request, despite all teachers being in school every day working with our critical workers. We encourage pupils to join these Zooms to help provide with a sense of connectivity and also to provide some necessary routine. We anticipate the end of day Zoom session being a chance for pupils to ask questions and receive calming feedback from the teacher about their efforts for the day. These Zoom sessions have been devised with the pupil's best interests at heart.

We would like all parents to understand that remote learning differs this year to last year insofar as it is an expectation for pupils to access remote learning, as they would usually be expected to attend school. Our offer is more robust than last time, in line with government guidelines, but our support and understanding of the need for flexibility remains.

Please contact your class teachers in the first instance if you have any concerns about the learning expectations, I feel certain they will be able to provide you with the reassurance you require if you are finding our recent remote learning letter has caused you anxiety. It is not necessary for parents to email the school office detailing their working patterns or home timetable situation because we understand that all families will need to make a timetable to suit them and their family circumstances.

Miss. Smith and our pastoral team are ready and on standby to support families who are still not feeling confident after discussions with the class teacher.

Unfortunately at the moment we have not got any laptops in school which we can lend out to children. As I am sure you are aware the Government have been very vocal about all the laptops they are giving to schools, however, we have not - until this point of closure - met the criteria to order any. As every school in the country is now in lockdown the method of ordering has needed to change and we are still not able to apply for our allocation. We are informed that the DfE are likely to be making an announcement about this today but feel I should let parents know that before Christmas the allocated number of laptops assigned to our school for access at the point of closure was just 4.

Thank you again for your time and patience,

Bridget Harrison
Headteacher