



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Head of School: Jonathan Souter

3 February 2021

Changes to online learning timetables from Monday 8th February 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

I would like to thank you again for all you are doing at home to support your children with their home learning and in doing so, ensuring they are missing out on as little as possible at this time. We continue to recognise how difficult and challenging it is to support children who are learning at home remotely and following the feedback we received in the recent parent questionnaire and from direct contact we have had with parents, I would like to share with you some changes we will be making to your child's weekly timetable. These changes will come into effect on Monday 8th February 2021.

Currently work is being set based on your child's normal weekly school timetable of 5 lessons per day (25 lessons per week). We appreciate how some issues have been arising at home when children take longer to complete a lesson, which in turn means that the daily learning takes longer or some subjects then get missed, which in turn means engagement suffers, resulting in everyone feeling overwhelmed. In order to address some of these concerns we are going to operate a simplified timetable in all year groups from Monday 8th February, with four lessons per day. The same timetable will run in school for those attending our key worker/vulnerable child provision. The timetables will help support you to ensure a daily routine for your child, covering the range of subjects you would expect to see, but within the guidelines for recommended daily online learning (4 hours for KS2 pupils and 5 hours for KS3 pupils). Of course you do not have to stick to the suggested timings as you must do what is right for your own household situation and with home learning there is the flexibility to do that.

The daily routine in each year group will usually be the same to ensure consistency across the school (with some minor adaptations between Key Stages). Each day will start with time to read, any arranged form class meetings or virtual assemblies and Star of the Week presentations (on Mondays and Fridays respectively). Four online learning lessons will be set for each day with Maths and English taking place on a morning and other subjects in the afternoon.

MORNING SESSION	START OF DAY (Getting ready to learn)	Assembly (Monday) Accelerated Reader Time Form Class Contact Stars of the Week (Friday)
	Lesson 1	Core Subjects (Maths, English or Science)
	Lesson 2	Core Subjects (Maths, English or Science)
Lunch		
AFTERNOON SESSION	Lesson 3	Foundation Subjects (or Science)
	Lesson 4	Foundation Subjects (or Science)

We have added the new timetables in to your child's Year Information class in Google Classroom, so you can see what lessons are taking place on each day of the week (as it may be different to what they have been used to). Please note the timings on these timetables are for the in-school provision for key worker children, however you may choose to use them as a guide if you wish. Scheduled work will appear in their Google Classroom on those days and will reflect the recommended daily online learning times for each Key Stage.

We hope that this measure will further support our children and families at this difficult time, whilst ensuring the children can continue to learn across the range of subjects, with good engagement each week. If you have any queries about the new timetables, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely

Mr J K Souter
Head of School