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A SPECIALIST LEARNING COMMUNITY

Trust CEO and Executive Principal: Ms A Y Holdsworth
Headteacher: Mrs L Parrish

Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer;

Re: Remote education during lockdown

I am writing to assure you of our commitment to providing high quality remote education for our children and young people throughout the current lockdown and partial school closure. Within a matter of hours of being informed of the closure, our teachers began planning a remote education strategy and curriculum for their classes; as you can imagine, this has not been an easy task.

Due to the diversity of our school community, our teachers have identified the appropriate balance and content of remote education. We are going to use a variety of strategies to continue to support your child/young person's learning whilst they are at home and teachers are looking forward to working with you, as parents, to do this.

Our teachers will support classes by offering:

- **A daily check-in** on a video call, this may be as part of a more structured lesson, group reading activity or be an opportunity for the children to catch up for their wellbeing. This will be done over Microsoft Teams and the link will be shared via ClassDojo.
- Where appropriate, some groups may also have **additional online lessons** – teachers have carefully considered these and they will be an opportunity for children to be reminded of subject content. These may not be appropriate for some groups.
- **Online learning** – teachers may choose to set specific lessons from online platforms such as White Rose Maths Hub and Oak National Academy. Oak National Academy has a wide range of content spanning the entire National Curriculum from Early Years to Year 11 with recorded lessons by subject specialist teachers. There is also a comprehensive therapeutic offer in the Specialist section which encompasses Speech and Language, Physical Therapies, Occupational Therapy and Sensory Integration.
- **Key Skills work** – this will be targeted work based on the targets outlined in your child's Key Skills Care Plan. We understand that, in these difficult times, our first priority is to ensure that children consolidate their learning before moving on to more tricky work. If your child is flying through the Key Skills work and they have mastered the skills, please let the teacher know so that they can set some new targets and challenges.
- **Opportunities for creative, independence and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) experiences** – these differ depending on your child and their age and ability.

Evidence of work can be photographed and sent to your child's class teacher through Class Dojo.

Bubbles will consist of a combination of classes and their Teachers and Teaching Assistants. The teaching team have devised a rota where they work in school one week and then remotely

inspire, learn, enjoy and achieve



the other. Teachers will take it in turns to lead both remote learning and face-to-face learning within their bubbles. This will ensure the quality of remote learning and learning for those students attending school as they will be taught by a teacher who knows and understands their needs. All children in the classes that make up the bubbles will be added to a new ClassDojo group which will allow parents, carers and the teaching teams to communicate consistently. If you have any concerns, you will be able to communicate with the 'Bubble' on ClassDojo and both teachers will be able to view and support you.

The school has established some 'home learning standards' to ensure proper conduct and engagement with any live lessons. These will be displayed at the beginning of each lesson to ensure all learners are reminded of expectations. Your support in reinforcing these standards, is welcome. Parent advice is also included and teachers may 'coach' an adult through supporting a child if necessary. All children, young people and adults must be appropriately dressed at all times during live video lessons to ensure people remain safe. In the event of a teacher deeming a pupil or parent to conduct themselves inappropriately, they will ask them to leave the call immediately and will pass their concerns on to their Head of Department. The teacher or Head of Department may choose to discuss this further with members of the Leadership Team. Pupils or parents who have been involved in inappropriate conduct online will not be able to join live lessons until the matter has been investigated.

Where we are using video conference calls for lessons and check-ins, we will record the call in order to safeguard your children and our staff. These recordings will be saved securely on the school network as soon as the teacher is able to access the school network.

Our offer:

When my child is accessing school...	<i>Your child will receive face-to-face education whilst they are in school. They do not need to engage in remote education unless they want to or are completing homework.</i>
When my child is not accessing school...	<i>Your child will be offered remote education for the days that they are not able to attend school.</i>
My child is not accessing school during the Lockdown period...	<i>Your child will be offered remote education for each school day.</i>

Our remote education offer will also be available in the event that children and young people need to self-isolate due to close contact with a positive case.

As a school, we are acutely aware that everybody's circumstances will differ. You may be attempting to home educate at the same time as working from home yourselves or your child or young person may struggle to engage with home learning because of their own particular learning difficulties. Please do not worry and just try to do what you can. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child/young person's class teacher.

Yours Sincerely,



James Findlay-Pidcock
Assistant Headteacher

