



Together We Learn and Grow

Great Sankey Primary School

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Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear parents

I hope you are all well as the dust begins to settle after a rather tumultuous week following the announcement on Monday night.

Following my letter earlier this week with regards to our home learning remote offer, I wanted to remind you of a few points. As you are aware, this is different than the previous lockdown as we are also running the same curriculum online as we are for the children in school with lots of new learning, rather than revisiting previous learning. The timetable of activities shared with you within the Remote Learning policy demonstrates our commitment to being able to offer high quality education and learning. However, we also recognise that many of you are also working from home and juggling this, along with other siblings which can be a challenge. Like last time, do your best. I want to remind you how quickly the children returned to school and how we were able to adapt our curriculum and teaching to accommodate the lost learning, many of whom quickly showed minimum loss of learning. This is affecting the nation and we must adjust accordingly. It is important however, that the children are accessing the work and we are here to offer any support, reassurance and guidance throughout this time.

Government expectations have changed and part of this is that we must now check and challenge when children are not engaging with the work being set. We have good relationships with our families and this will continue. The 'check' will be supportive and always in the best interests for the child. In order to survey the level of engagement each day, we will ask that the children upload the piece of work that they are most proud of from that day. The teacher will then keep a record of this as it will demonstrate who is engaging daily, if we feel that there is a lack of engagement then we will contact you to discuss how we can work together to best support your child with their learning. If you are completing this in their books, a simple photo can be taken and then uploaded.

Please remember the Home Learning is there to support yourself and your children whilst we try to get this virus under control. We are offering some 'live' meetings and lessons but these will also be uploaded onto the Google Classroom to support with access and different timings you might have personally throughout the day. There are also lots of other resources that the children have access to support them in addition such as **Born to Move, Oxford Owl, Cosmic Yoga, TenTown (Nursery and Reception), LetterJoin, TT Rockstars, Spelling Frame, Learning by Questions** etc. to name but a few. Staff will signpost you to these links on their Google Classrooms.



As last time, we will work hard to maintain our sense of school community and always enjoy seeing your work and messages on our Twitter feeds as well as within the Google Classroom. We will continue to share good news both at home and school as well as hold our Celebration assemblies and give out house points, awards and challenges.

Social media has been sharing that Google Classroom can also be accessed on Xbox and PlayStation consoles. To access this, the child / parent will need to download the web browser onto their console. On PlayStation the browser is called 'www' and on Xbox either; 'edge' or 'Bing' browsers work. This may support greater access for some.

We are also receiving a small number of calls from families worrying about printing and also collating all the work the children are producing. We would ask that during this time, the children use their school books to record their work. This should also help ease the burden of worksheets and any printing. It will also allow the children to continue with their learning on their return. We are also happy to support with any printing that may be required, if you contact the school. Sadly, as we had no notice of the partial closures we were unable to send the children's exercise books home with the children. However, we ask that you arrange to come and pick these up from next week. Paper work packs will also be available for Nursery and Reception at the same times. The children's exercise books will be available to be picked up from the school hall on:

Monday 11th January from 9.30am to 11.30am and then from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. This will be repeated on Tuesday 12th also.

Please try to utilise one another if you know you pass houses on your school route to support with collection and also minimising the footfall in the school. Please remember when attending school to continue to follow our guidance of wearing a mask and maintaining 2 metres social distancing.

Finally, Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education suggested that if parents are not happy with online learning then they should report this to Ofsted. My preference would be that you contact your child's class teacher, the school or myself directly so we can attempt to address any concerns you have. Staff are working incredibly hard, not just this week but also in the past 9 months trying to prepare for every eventuality. Using Ofsted as a threat is mildly disappointing, especially since we were one of the Pilot schools that actually invited them in to review our online offer and return back in September! May I also remind parents however, that if you are also happy with our school, you can also tell them by going onto their website <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and completing the Parent Survey. You can also tag them in any tweets in @Ofstednews

As always, we all thank you for your support, understanding and patience – we are all in this together as our GSP team and it won't be forever.

Take care and kind regards

V.J. Briggs

V.J. Briggs
Executive Headteacher

