Virtual Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who managed to join us this morning for our first virtual coffee morning. Apologies to anyone who struggled to hear all points discussed. I hope those who attended found it helpful and that any IT queries were answered. We will run another virtual coffee morning next week to give further updates and to ensure you feel as supported by the school as much as is possible.

Summary of points shared

1. As a school we understand the challenging circumstances that exist for everyone. We know each family circumstance is unique. We understand and sympathise that there are challenges across our school community as some of you may have babies, toddlers, perhaps several primary age children at different ages and stages and perhaps a teenager or two undertaking remote learning for high school. This is not easy and with that you may also be trying to work from home. **So please don’t put too much pressure on yourself or your children in these challenging circumstances**. We know that access to devices may be problematic if you have several children working at home. Our provision aims to recognise and support you in these circumstances.
2. Monday was not a good day but we hope Microsoft Teams have sorted all the glitches that caused problems nationwide. To date there is clear evidence of significant engagement across the school so we hope technical issues have been addressed.
3. The school will continue to communicate with you using our social media platforms. All updates and sign posting is carried out weekly on our school blog. Please ensure you have downloaded the app. We also use twitter for updates and also have a school Facebook. Many thanks to Mrs.Elliott who has responded quickly to support a variety of parent queries over the last few days. We also have groupcall and will continue to e-mail letters and information direct to your mailbox. Please don’t hesitate to call the school or e-mail myself directly in regard of any queries. We will do our best to respond timeously.
4. Learning being undertaken during this lockdown is planned new learning that ensures continuity and progression for your child.  **Engagement in Microsoft Teams is vital to ensure progression.**

How are we doing this

Virtual Classroom – each class has their own virtual classroom that is currently replicating the planned learning that would have taken place had we been in school. Some teachers have provided voice overs to talk through the work planned for that day. Other teachers are working towards this at the moment. There are clear hyperlinks to resources/teaching clips and other software such as Rising Stars, IDL and Sumdog. This is a universal offer that is provided for children whether learning at home or in school. This ensures that children who have to attend school, if their parent is a key worker, are still completing the assigned work set by their teacher.

Class Meets – these have started at some stages with the ai of primarily checking in with children in the first instance. We know our children are missing school, their teacher and their friends and they want to be back in the building. I bet you never thought you would hear such statements from your children. The class meets will take place initially to see how children are getting on, provide support and answer children’s questions. **Over the next few weeks class meets will be used to share the planned learning for the week ahead and to catch up with children at the end of the week to see how the week has went.**

Live lessons- as stated previously we know the challenges for families therefore lessons will be recorded to share a new teaching point and will be put in the virtual classroom. This may only be a 5/10 minute lesson that will lead to instructions about the assigned task. Teachers don’t stand in front of children talking for 45 minutes so please don’t expect recorded lessons of this length. Shorter recorded lessons can be played back and can also be viewed at a time that suits your family. Our aim is that provision is accessible and flexible and that there is clear equity. No one misses out because they could not get access while a live lesson was online. Please note that in each class there are several groups and not all children are working at the same level so differentiation of learning outcomes and assignments has to take place.

Learning Packs – please contact the school if you require any paper copies or additional work to support the learning programme if you feel this would be beneficial. Work issued will be linked to the planned learning for that week. Teachers may have already been in touch to provide this for your child if their learning programme is more individualised.

1. **Please don’t let yourself or your child become overwhelmed**. **Getting outside is good for your child so please ensure planned breaks, time out, time for play. This is so important.** Whilst they may be in school for 6 hours each day they do a great variety of things. **Please focus on the Literacy and Numeracy learning to help keep your child on track.**
2. There were several questions around IT that were answered by Mrs.Drummond. Many thanks to Mrs Drummond who has provided an IT helpdesk over and above her post as teacher.

We hope to host another Virtual Coffee Morning next week and continue to answer queries as time goes on. No question is every silly so please don’t hesitate to ask. Everyone is at a different level of skill in regard of IT. **We are in this together. Partnership working will be key to ensuring your child makes continued progress in their learning in the weeks ahead.**

Thank you for taking the time to read. Please look out for a questions and answers sheet in response to the queries that have come our way this week.