



St Patrick's RC Primary School, Dipton

North Road, Flint Hill, Dipton, Stanley, Co. Durham, DH9 9BB. Tel: 01207570316

E-mail: diptonstpatricks@durhamlearning.net Website: <http://www.dipton.durham.sch.uk/>

Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess
We follow in Christ's footsteps

Wednesday 21st October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

UPDATE ON HOME LEARNING AUTUMN TERM 2020

As you will be aware, at the beginning of this month, we had our first whole-class isolation due to a confirmed case of Covid 19. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the families of our Year Five children for their support during this time and for their overwhelmingly positive feedback about the remote learning experience provided.

FEEDBACK ON PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

A great deal of thought and planning went into the preparations for remote learning, but it has been a very steep learning curve for us all! Thank you to the parents who completed our questionnaire about their experiences of home learning during the class isolation. It was lovely to read your kind and supportive messages, recognising the hard work and commitment of staff during this time. Of the 19 parents who responded, 16 felt that, overall, the home learning experience was positive and 17 felt that expectations were clear.

Some of the elements that parents found the most positive were the ease of access to work through the *Purple Mash* platform, the variety and amount of work set, the way tasks allowed children to work independently and the interaction with classmates and the teacher through the class blog and marking feedback.

We also asked for suggestions about how this experience could be improved for future class isolations. Some suggestions were to include an element of teacher video messages or lessons and to set more art work. Some parents felt the work set was too much and some felt it wasn't enough. There were also some queries about the format of maths worksheets. Whilst we accept that it will be impossible to provide an approach that is a perfect solution for everybody, we do hope to be able to make small adjustments as we progress through this new situation, and some details of this, along with the rationale for our remote learning package are given below.

REMOTE LEARNING RATIONALE AND EXPECTATIONS

As a school we have prepared for the possibility of a class, group or individual children needing to isolate for up to 14 days in the event of a positive case of Covid-19. In addition to this, we have made arrangements for the continuation of learning if a child needs to isolate whilst waiting for test results for themselves or a household member. These arrangements follow the guidelines set by the Department for Education, which stipulate that the time spent learning should be an equivalent length to the direct teaching that children would receive in school. It is important to note that the lessons and activities set are not simply revision or 'holding' activities to keep children occupied; they cover the learning that children would, otherwise, be completing in school. It is, therefore, very important that children complete and keep up with the lessons at home, so as to be prepared for class learning upon their return.

Our remote learning contingency plan ensures that we are able to switch between classroom-based

learning and remote learning as seamlessly as possible, with the same subjects and lesson objectives simply being covered in a different format. As I'm sure you will be aware, this is no mean feat! Within our school curriculum, English and maths will be taught every day; this is reflected in the amount of English and maths work set for remote learning. Some other subjects, such as art, may not be taught every half-term. In order to preserve the learning sequence, therefore, the lessons set will reflect whatever learning was going on in the classroom that half-term.

When formulating our remote learning plans, a conscious decision was taken to provide all worksheets in PDF (Portable Document Format), rather than Word or another editable programme. This allows inclusion for all as it means that the documents can be opened on any device. Please note that the maths work does not require writing on the worksheets. In fact, we would encourage children to copy out and complete calculations and exercises in their homework books. Setting out and presenting work is a skill that we encourage at school.

Our remote learning opportunities are designed, in most cases, to be carried out, by children, independently. We recognise that many parents may be trying to work from home themselves and we certainly do not expect that parents are teaching their children. For most children, very little parental input should be required, other than ensuring that children log on to *Purple Mash* and, perhaps, for younger children, assisting with upload of work.

SOME ADDITIONS TO OUR REMOTE LEARNING PACKAGE

In response to parental feedback, we have decided to include an element of teacher video messages and pre-recorded lessons within the programme for whole class isolations. Over the course of fourteen days, children will receive a number of links to these videos via *Purple Mash*. It has been decided that, in order to accommodate the wide variety of home situations, these lessons will not be live. Instead, they will be pre-recorded so that they can be watched at a time convenient to each household. We feel that this way, children will still see their teacher's face, but no extra pressure will be put on families to adhere to strict times in what may already be a stressful situation. These videos will be played via YouTube. You may like to check your filter settings. Please ensure that you have selected 'Restricted Mode' selected from the drop-down menu from your Google account icon in the top right. You can also switch off playback of extra videos in YouTube. While a video is playing, select the 'settings' icon and then switch off 'autoplay'.

It was also suggested that weekly spellings were included in home learning work. Moving forward, we intend to provide children with weekly spelling rules to learn, as they would when at school.

Thank you for bearing with us as we navigate these difficult times together. Unfortunately, it appears that this new way of working is here for a while yet; we hope to continue to develop our remote curriculum so that children's learning suffers as little upheaval as possible. As always, your children's safety and education are our priority.

On the next page, we have included a summary of what remote learning will look like in different scenarios.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Miss E Parry
Curriculum Lead

REMOTE LEARNING IN DIFFERENT SCENARIOS

	WHOLE CLASS ISOLATION	INDIVIDUAL ISOLATION (<u>Household member</u> has symptoms of Covid 19 /waiting for household test results)	INDIVIDUAL ISOLATION (<u>Child</u> has symptoms of Covid 19 or is waiting for test result)
WORK SET	Daily work will be set via <i>Purple Mash</i> . Each morning, children will receive a notification with an explanation of the day's tasks. Three tasks will be set per day (English, maths and one other subject). These will not just be revision tasks: teachers will continue to move learning forward and new content will be introduced through quality, government endorsed, pre-recorded video lessons. (Links will be provided with the daily tasks). During the isolation period, there will also be some video input from your child's class teacher.	On the first day of absence, please encourage your child to read their reading book, practise key maths facts (tables or number-bonds) and practise spelling rules (current and previous). From the second day of absence, daily work will be provided on <i>Purple Mash</i> . Your child will receive a daily overview of tasks to complete as a 2Do notification (on the purple bell). There will be three tasks set per day (English, maths and one other subject).	If your child is poorly, and not well enough to attend school, they are not well-enough to complete work and no work will be set for them. If you feel that they have recovered enough to be able to work at home, please contact the school office to arrange for work to be set through <i>Purple Mash</i> .
WORK EXPECTATIONS	It is expected that your child completes the daily work set at home and uploads it to 'hand-in' to their teacher. (Full instructions on how to do this have been provided in the previous letter about homework and are also available on our website). Tasks will be progressive and will expire after two days, so it is vital that your child keeps up with the work set. Work will be marked online and, in order to ensure progress, timely feedback will be provided to children. As such, we will contact parents whose children have not completed their work	It is expected that your child completes the daily work set at home and uploads it to 'hand-in' to their teacher. (Full instructions on how to do this have been provided in the previous letter about homework and are also available on our website).	If your child is poorly, we just wish them well and do not expect them to be completing school work.
QUERIES	If your child has any questions about the work set, please encourage them to comment on the class blog with their question so a member of staff can respond. For younger children, parents may wish to do this for them.	If you have any queries about these tasks, please call the school office. Please be aware, however, that your child's teacher will be continuing to teach the rest of the class and so may not be able to answer your query immediately or in person.	Please call the school office with any queries.
HOUSEHOLD	Only child needs to isolate. Other household members can attend school or work, unless child or family member begins to show symptoms.	Whole household need to isolate until negative test result (or, in the event of a positive result, follow Government guidance).	Whole household need to isolate until negative test result (or, in the event of a positive result, follow Government guidance).