



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

10th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

UPDATE ON HOME LEARNING AND FEEDBACK ON QUESTIONNAIRES

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for their support during this time and for their positive feedback about the remote learning experience. It was lovely to read your kind and supportive messages, recognising the hard work and commitment of staff during this time.

Although home learning has been a mixed experience for everyone, the vast majority of parents felt that expectations of home learning were clear and that home learning tasks were easily accessible. Where queries had been raised, parents felt that school had been able to assist with these.

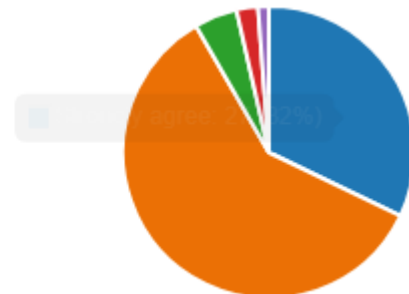
The home learning experience has been a positive one

Strongly agree	13
Agree	41
No view either way	5
Disagree	22
Strongly disagree	3



Expectations were clear

Strongly agree	27
Agree	50
No view either way	4
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1



Home learning tasks were easily accessible

Strongly agree	25
Agree	48
No view either way	4
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	2



If a query was raised, school have provided appropriate support

● Strongly agree	24
● Agree	31
● Disagree	4
● Strongly disagree	2
● I didn't need to contact school...	23



Some of the elements that parents found the most positive were the clear setting of daily tasks, the ease of access to work through the *Purple Mash* platform, the variety and amount of work set, the inclusion of the class blog as a method of communication throughout the day, the marking and feedback given to children and the introduction of live lessons.

Children told us that they liked the daily 'job list' and that it helped them to organise their time. They said that they found the blog a useful tool for asking questions and that they liked the fact that they were able to re-watch video content. Children appreciated the feedback given when they hand-in their work and said that it helped them to improve. Overwhelmingly, children enjoyed the interaction of the live sessions.

We also asked for additional comments and questions. Some parents felt the work set was too much and some felt it wasn't enough. Some parents would like more live sessions and some felt that they preferred the flexibility of pre-recorded videos. There were also some queries about accessing current 2Dos on Purple Mash and the format of 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 accommodate the needs of our families and to support them during this time. Many questions can be answered through the FAQ section on our website. We have also added responses to this section in light of queries raised through the questionnaires. Some common queries raised on the questionnaires are addressed below.

FORMAT OF WORK – Why are files sent as PDFs and do I need to print it?

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 work does not require printing or writing on the worksheets. It is designed to be used as a 'text book'. 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. For younger children, it is completely acceptable to simply write down answers. We do not expect parents to copy out worksheets.

If, however, you feel you would like to access worksheets etc in a different format, we have discovered a free website, ilovepdf.com, which offers the ability to convert PDFs into any editable format that you feel comfortable working with. This may be of use to some.

AMOUNT OF WORK SET

We are bound by the Department for Education's expectations around daily remote learning time. These stipulate that KS1 children should be spending around 3 hours per day on home learning and KS2 children around 4 hours. Children told us that the work they are being asked to do is about the same or less than they do in school. If you find that the time spent on school work is considerably more than the three or four hours set, please contact your child's teacher to discuss this and agree what to prioritise.

ACCESSING WORK – Can I access the current 2Dos easily?

Although the red *2Do* folder contains all of a child's tasks, we do not recommend using this option as a way of routinely accessing daily tasks. Every day, the new tasks will show up as notifications on the purple *Alert* bell

icon. Simply click this bell and then click *Go To* beside each task. This will take you directly to the task, avoiding the need to search through old tasks in the 2Do folder.

TEAMS METINGS – We are finding it difficult to see or hear the teacher or board.

Thank you for your patience while we navigate this new system of learning together. We are all learning and becoming more expert by the day! If all children could join meetings with muted microphones, that would help immensely with 'feedback' and background noise.

CLASS BLOG AND COMMUNICATION – Is there a way for me to contact my child's teacher or teaching assistant privately?

If you have a query that you do not want to address on the class blog, please email the school office and a member of staff will get back to you. There is also a function to email your child's teacher or teaching assistant through Purple Mash if you just want to let them know something. You can find instructions on how to do this in the *Whole School Resources* section of the yellow *Work* folder on Purple Mash.

Last lockdown, you may have had check-in 'phone calls from your child's teacher. This time, we have adapted our communication approach so that staff 'check-in' with children daily through the 'Morning Meetings', feedback on work and communication through the class blog. Due to commitments supervising children in school and overseeing remote learning and live sessions, staff are unable to routinely call all parents. If, however, you feel that you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please call the office to arrange this.

LIVE LESSONS – Are the children expected to do more work now?

The live lessons simply replace some of the pre-recorded and pre-uploaded lessons that were previously set. In school, most lessons take the form of a teaching input from the teacher, followed by a task for children to complete independently. Wherever possible, we have tried to replicate this with home learning, with the input being provided by either a pre-recorded video, a teacher-prepared presentation file to read, or a live input. The live sessions are only designed to be the beginning of the lesson and are followed-up by the independent activity, just as the other lessons are.

We understand that home learning is not the ideal situation for everybody. It brings with it its share of trials and anxieties – for both families and staff – and we are committed to making this as positive and experience as possible for everyone, whilst continuing to provide quality education for our children. We are so grateful for the support of our families as we navigate these strange times together. If you have any queries or need support with an aspect of home learning, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks, as always for your support,
Miss E Parry Mrs J Burgess
Remote Learning Lead Head teacher