



Newsletter 19



Every child fulfilling their potential in a nurturing learning environment underpinned by Christian values.

Mr P Hayward: Headteacher

Friday 15th January 2021

The First Week of How Many?

As we complete the first full week of school in a lockdown, reality starts to bite. I suspect, for some children, the novelty of being at home may start to wear off a little and so the need to establish a pattern of home learning matters more than ever. I have been researching some ideas for home-learning which may help a little.

1. Have a dedicated space for learning

Many parents have already set up a space in their home for their children to complete their school work. But if you haven't, or if the space is only a temporary solution, consider making it an area where your children want to spend their time learning. Keep a supply of pencils and paper at hand so the children have everything they need to learn.

2. Create routines

When the pandemic first shut down schools, many parents tried to turn their homes into schools, complete with daily schedules of activities. Instead of trying to create rigid schedules for how each school day should work, instead, create routines for learning. You might order the day by subject (eg maths, English, topic, reading, exercise). This becomes a daily routine and takes as long as it takes. Schedule lunch breaks and brain breaks but not the learning.

3. Take brain breaks

It's helpful for us as parents to remember that seat time doesn't equal learning time. Children generally work best in 30-minute increments and younger children probably need to shift activities every 15 to 20 minutes to really stay engaged.

4. Break down tasks into smaller pieces

It's easy for everyone to feel overwhelmed these days, and children are no exception. If children have multiple lessons to complete each day, it can be stressful to look at them all together. Instead, it can help the children to break them into smaller tasks so they're not as daunting. If your child has to read 20 pages for guided reading, it can help to tell them they only have to read five pages and then they can take a break and come back to it later.

5. Build in opportunities for daily exercise.

With many parents having to complete their own work at home, at the same time as the children, finding time for daily exercise can be a challenge. Try going for a family lunchtime stroll or a walk in the dark with torches and the dog at 5.00pm. Do a Joe Wicks workout or some other, easily accessible, online exercise routine.

From Monday, materials, for each day's lessons, will be posted on ClassDojo by no later than 8.00am. Please be aware that teachers may request that the children not complete certain pieces of work until after the live session. Please respect this, so that the children can get the maximum learning from the live session. Thank you.

Changes Bubbles In School and To Live Sessions

I have been asked if daily live sessions will be extended so that they are 3 or 4 hours a day. This will not be the case. Below is a segment from a recent article published by OFSTED.

“6: Live lessons aren’t always best

Some think that a live lesson is the ‘gold standard’ of remote education. This isn’t necessarily the case. Live lessons have a lot of advantages. They can make curriculum alignment easier, and can keep pupils’ attention, not least as the teacher has more control over the learning environment. But live lessons are not always more effective than asynchronous approaches.

There are some specific difficulties in doing live lessons. It can be hard to build in interaction and flexibility. This means that giving feedback can actually be less effective than when we use recorded lesson segments followed by interactive chats, or tasks and feedback. Using recorded lessons produced externally can allow you to easily draw on high-quality lessons taught by expert subject teachers. The challenge here can be to make sure they are integrated with the curriculum.”

The teachers will continue to set up live sessions daily (where possible – see below) to discuss the daily learning and, if time allows, to lead a lesson. When not leading a live session, teachers are responding to queries on ClassDojo, marking work and planning the next day’s learning based on feedback from the children for that day’s lessons. Over 3,500 photos and videos were uploaded to ClassDojo this week. Every piece is looked at and comments made.

In school, from Monday, I will be dividing the KS2 bubble. Numbers of vulnerable and critical worker children have increased and so I have taken the decision to separate Y3/4 children from Y5/6 children. To facilitate this, I will need a class teacher in school on a Thursday and a Friday to supervise the Y5/6 bubble. Therefore, teachers in school on those days will not be able to do live sessions. Miss Barnacle will be in school on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd January and so will not be leading live sessions on those days. Instead, she will post all of the work on ClassDojo. Miss Barnacle will return to live sessions on Monday 25th January.

“Appropriate” Live Sessions

It has come to my attention that during live sessions, a number of children have been unattended by parents and alone in their bedrooms. For reasons of safeguarding, live sessions must only take place in the presence of an adult. Children must not be sitting on their beds and must be fully dressed for the session. In future, if a teacher has cause for concern regarding the propriety of a child’s attendance online, the child will be locked out of the meeting and the parents contacted by the school to discuss the issue at hand. It is essential, for the safety of the children, and of the staff, that children are fully dressed, have had their breakfast and are ready to learn as if it was a normal school day.

School Meals

School meals for children in school this week will be as follows:

Monday 18 th January -	Pizza or Jacket Potato
Tuesday 19 th January -	Sausage and Mash or Jacket Potato
Wednesday 20 th January -	Roast Dinner or Jacket Potato
Thursday 21 st January -	Spag Bol or Jacket Potato
Friday 22 nd January -	Fish Fingers or Quorn - no jacket

Prayer Space – For 2021

God, please bless my school and my learning. Thank You for all of the teachers, and now my parents, working so hard to help me learn. I do miss the playtimes and lunchtimes, when I get to play with my friends but I know, at some point, I will be able to enjoy their company again. Thank You for providing a place where I can learn more about the world You created for us to live in, and understand how it works. Please keep my school safe. Protect all of the grown ups and children that are in school today. Protect us from harm, and help us to be kind to each other. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

CHILL BOOKINGS

To book a place for your child in CHILL please click on the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.st-andrews-weston.staffs.sch.uk/parents/1382-2/>

And finally...

It is pleasing to read about the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine. In school we have tightened our behaviours further to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. From next week, staff should have regular access to lateral flow tests and so we will be able to check if anyone in school tests positive for the virus. Everyone I know is finding the current situation challenging in their own way. But, by supporting our children's learning we are securing a better future for them. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your children.

Mr Hayward.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Dates for the academic year 2020 – 2021

Spring Term 2021

Half term: Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2021

Thursday 1 April Term ends

Holiday: Friday 2 April - Friday 16 April 2021

Easter Sunday: Sunday 4 April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19 April School opens

Monday 3 May School closed

Half term: Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2021

Monday 7 June INSET Day

Wednesday 21 July Term ends

Holiday: Thursday 22 July - Tuesday 31 August 2021

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 – 2022

Please note, INSET days are yet to be confirmed.

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Inset day: Wednesday 1 September

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September

Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October

Term ends: Friday 17 December

Holiday: Monday 20 December – Monday 3 January

SPRING TERM 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4 January

Half Term: Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February

Term ends: Friday 8 April

Holiday: Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17 April

SUMMER TERM 2022

Term starts: Monday 25 April

May Day: Monday 2 May

Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

Term ends: Thursday 21 July

Holiday: Friday 22 July – Friday 2 September