



Combe Martin Primary School Remote Learning Update | 5th Jan 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your amazing support and patience during this very challenging time. As you are aware we have now returned to a national lockdown until February half term and due to the late announcement from the Government last night, schools were closed today to allow planning and arrangements to be put in place.

Critical Worker/Vulnerable Children Provision

Today we have put in place the booking system and provision for our critical workers and vulnerable children. All parents who completed the online google form have been sent a link to book their children via School Money and have been sent an email with the details of the provision for children in school over the next few days. Please remember as a critical worker, if you are able to provide sufficient childcare to enable your child to access online learning please do so. The key government guideline is 'if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should'.

Remote Learning

For those with children who will be at home, I want to provide you with a few key points of reassurance. Our main priority is pupil well being and also to ensure some continuity in pupil learning. We have had more practice now with remote learning and will do our utmost to ensure a positive and productive experience for children. You have all been brilliant with engaging with google classroom for home learning last term and we will be using google classroom as the platform for the majority of our remote learning. A timetable will be set on google classroom for the next few days until the end of the week with some video interactions with teachers. From Monday 11th January onwards we hope to start some live lessons. We would like children to have the daily routine and reassurance of 'seeing' their teachers and classmates, but without the pressure or screen time involved with replicating the whole timetable. Therefore, in most cases, we plan to move towards the day being split between online lessons and independent work, which we believe is the happiest balance for children and parents.



A plan and timetable for the week beginning the 11th January will be shared with parents by Friday 8th January on individual year group google classrooms. It is important that children participate everyday, unless they are unwell. If you have any concerns regarding computer facilities or internet access, we are here to help; but please contact the school office straightaway so that we can try to find a solution as soon as possible.

Character Education

This term we planned to roll out our Character Education. Character Education is the foundation to academic success and I believe now it is even more important than ever that we support children to develop core character virtues to enable them to respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, have confidence in their own identities and understand how they learn. Character Education will still be taught, even though it will be through remote learning, and children will have opportunities to practise their character virtues through all curriculum subjects, enrichment and wider experiences. We plan for our character education to be woven throughout, enhancing the curriculum to ensure children have experiences beyond the classroom, and providing them with opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge in a wider context. Linking all the building blocks of character through four core character virtues: Intellectual, moral, performance and civic virtues. Our first Character virtue we will be focusing on for the next few weeks will be 'Reflection' and we will be introducing this virtue through a video message or live assembly early next week.

New Appointment of Trust Inclusion Officers - Support for our families

In line with our trust business plan, the trust has recruited two social inclusion officers who began working across the trust on Monday 4th January. Both officers have extensive experience and are thoroughly looking forward to working with each school and families across the trust. A letter will follow later this week introducing both Mr. James Creek and Mrs. Sonia Grant, their contact details and how they can offer support during lock down to our families.

I know that after a difficult and challenging year with coronavirus in 2020, this latest announcement at the start of 2021 will cause further disruption to families. However, with Covid cases at a record high and a new variant of the virus spreading at a faster rate, the new plans will help to keep our community safe which is the top priority for everyone. The collective well-being of our children, staff and families is our highest priority.

Thank you for your continued cooperation,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs G Holmes

Executive Headteacher