



The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



*Chair of Governors: Dr A Eyden
Vice Chair of Governors: Rev D Ridley*

***"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."
(Matthew: 17 v20)***

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19th January 2021

Dear parent/carer

Update – Second full week of learning at home

We have now settled into the routine of lockdown number 3. The families accessing a school place during this restriction are only doing so when absolutely necessary, we do appreciate this observance of the guidance to support keeping transmission down. Staff are currently working their way through their class lists and making phone calls to all children not attending so please do ensure we have up to date contact numbers.

The feedback from these phone calls has been overwhelmingly positive and our children and families do seem to be rising to the challenge of home schooling with fortitude and resilience.

A number of common themes have emerged from these calls and this letter is to cover some of them:

Locating remote learning plan

Most families have found the purple mash learning, but some were not aware of the remote learning timetable which outlines the planned structure for the week and associated links. The children in school are following this timetable so children at home will be learning the same. It will help give structure to your day

www.downs.kent.sch.uk – go to the curriculum, assessment & learning tab – click on remote learning – select your child's year group – select the correct week

Also on the remote learning page there are reminders of other resources that can be accessed from within our website to support learning.

Any work that is completed outside of purple mash, can be photographed and uploaded via purple mash or emailed into school to share with teachers.

Paper packs

There are paper packs available which some families have found useful when they have more than one child at home and need to share their time between them. They follow the remote learning plan. We are only photocopying what is needed so please email your request in to school and then give us 24 hours before coming to collect. Please only come up to school between 9.15am and 2.45pm to avoid drop off and pick up times.

We recognize that with siblings, and other family members at home, all trying to access their work, the school day at home may not mirror the school day in school. This is perfectly fine as families need to make this time work for them. Try not to get too stressed by this, follow the children's interests and work when you and they are ready.



Reading

Access to books may be more difficult at the moment so I wanted to make you aware of two sources for you to access.

Kent Library

Kent libraries are offering access to thousands of free e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers for members. If you are not a member it is easy to complete a membership form and obtain a temporary membership during lockdown. Visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/ebooks-eaudiobooks-emagazines-enewspapers> for more information.

Oak Library

Oak National Academy have launched a Virtual School Library in partnership with the National Literacy Trust. Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. Visit <https://library.thenational.academy/> to see what is on offer each week.

Devices

The school has been provided with 43 laptops by the DFE to support remote home learning. As you can imagine the demand for these is more than our allocation. We have developed criteria for allocation and so far we have written to those families who completed the parental survey (4th January) and meet the criteria. As staff make contact with families, and we understand more about how you access the remote learning, further letters will be sent out. If you believe you might be eligible for a device phone the school office to be added to the list.

It is possible to access remote learning via the x-box as these do have access to the internet and with a keyboard attached, will allow remote learning plans to be accessed.

Attendance

Registered to attend – please do not send your child in to school if they are unwell and remember to phone in reason for absence as normal

Not attending school – we would like to hear from you if your child is unwell for any reason or test's positive for COVID. We can then update teachers that they are not well enough to access learning during this period of time.

What to do if your child has a positive coronavirus test result and is attending school every day/some days

Inform the school straightaway – you may get test results out of school hours, if this is the case please phone **07756807060**. Please note this number is **only for reporting a positive test result** out of school hours (evenings/weekends/holidays). At all other times continue to phone the school office.

Thinking ahead – half term - Letter from CEO:

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been pleased and proud that All DEALT schools have delivered provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers during the third national lockdown, and I would like to thank you all for only using this when absolutely necessary.

After discussion with DEALT Trustees and Heads, we would like to give you advanced warning that this provision will not continue during the February Half Term Break, as it did in previous lockdowns. This decision reflects current DFE and KCC Guidance and we wanted to ensure you had plenty of time to make alternative arrangements for child care.

This will enable all school staff to have time to refresh and recharge, ready to meet the challenges of Term 4.

If DFE guidance significantly changes in the near future, DEALT will look to see how this can be implemented.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Jo Hygate CEO

Please keep safe and well. Keep in touch – do phone the school office to have queries answered or if support is needed.

Miss Leighton
Headteacher

