



St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School

Love to learn, Love God, Love one another

Thursday 14th January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

We hope that you and your loved ones are all well.

Thank you for all of your support, patience and understanding, as we work together to continue children's learning, following the government announcement last week that schools must close to all children other than those considered as vulnerable or who have a parent classed as a critical worker.

The government have set an expectation of the number of hours work which children who are not able to attend school should complete each day. The government state that children in Key Stage 1 should complete on average three hours each day; and those in Key Stage 2 should complete four hours each day. All work which you complete with your child has a positive impact on their learning and we appreciate that some of you may find it challenging to complete the hours set by the government, especially if you too are working from home or have more than one younger child. We acknowledge the challenges which this may bring and are here to help, please keep in contact with your class teacher if there are ways in which we can support.

As part of our home/remote learning, we will include sessions from many areas, including Microsoft Teams, Discovery World, Timestables Rockstars, Twinkl, the Oak Academy Trust, ASM, Jumpstart Jonny, the BBC sessions (online and the new TV programmes which start this week), and others. We will, of course, keep in touch about how to access these. We are also able to provide 'hard copies' of some of the work and support with technical difficulties.

We commenced our 'live lessons' last week, on Wednesday 6th January via Microsoft Teams and are delighted with how many of our families have been able to access these and also to see so many smiley faces! It has been a learning curve for us all to use Microsoft Teams as a more prominent teaching tool, and every day brings new skills. The most special part of using this resource during this period, is the contact we have with you, our wonderful families.

As a staff team, we wish to share some guidelines to ensure safe and efficient practice.

These are:

- Please mute microphones during the live session, unless the teacher asks for these to be turned on (this reduces background sounds and allows all children to hear what is being shared);
- Please ensure children are appropriately dressed, have no distractions, and are ready for their lesson (this will help with their learning) – please be mindful that when the camera and microphone are on, background images and sound are also being broadcast to others;

Holt Lane, Kingsley, Staffordshire, ST10 2BA. Tel: 01538 702355. e-mail: office@st-werburghs.staffs.sch.uk



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www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk



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- Once we have said 'hello' and given each other a wave, the teacher may then ask for cameras to be switched off. Please then leave these off until they ask for these to be switched back on;
- Use the 'chat' function on Microsoft Teams for school work-related questions/ answers;
- Complete and return your work in the way requested by the staff member leading the session;
- Have a piece of paper and pen/pencil available during the 'live lesson' to make notes.

Teachers will aim to be available via Microsoft Teams and the class email from Monday to Friday from 09:00-16:30, but there will be times when they will be working with the children in school, working with others online, completing other tasks as part of their role, undertaking training/development, or even having their lunch - and as such, there may not always be an immediate response. May we kindly request that emails are avoided outside of this time, as although the team may well still be working (in school or at home), we also need to spend time with our families and loved ones.

If you have any issues or questions regarding home/remote learning, please contact your child's teacher via the class email address. For users who have reported difficulties, or encounter problems accessing online, please contact us – we will always try to help.

Just as you are, the staff team feel disappointed that we are not allowed to welcome all children into school at this time and we thank you for helping to keep people safe by respecting the current restrictions on who can attend school. The government have confirmed that children of Critical Workers must **only** attend school when parent/carers have to work on that day and there is no alternative childcare available. We hope that by all playing our part and following the rules, we can keep one another safe and reduce the risk of this terrible virus.

Thank you for all of your positive comments, thoughts and support, they are very, very much appreciated, especially during this uncertain time. Please pass our best wishes to the children and all members of the family.

Please stay safe.

The St. Werburgh's team

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