



Letter from Head Master and Junior School Deputes

Friday 17th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We sincerely hope you managed to have a good rest over the Easter weeks and that you and yours are in good health. As it seems that school closures will be in place for the next few weeks we wanted to outline what you can expect to find on Schoology and what learning provision is in place for the forthcoming weeks. The Junior School staff are continuing to work as hard as possible to ensure the impact of the lockdown on learning is reduced as much as possible. We are making a few adjustments to the learning provision we are offering, not least in responding to some points raised by yourselves and through the survey. Our thanks to the many parents and pupils who completed the survey. Your appreciation of the staff and constructive comments and suggestions on the learning provision have been much appreciated.

Organising the Learning

Setting work

In summary from w/c 20.4.20 we will be uploading:

- 2 activities per day in Mathematics and Literacy on Monday/ Tuesday and Wednesday.
- 1 Humanities activity and 1 RE activity on Thursday
- 1 or 2 Science/MFL activities on Mondays and Wednesdays
- 1 Music and 1 Art activity on Friday

You should find these activities posted as Schoology assignments rather than updates, with the due date for the Wednesday or Thursday of that week. This should make it easier for you to find work set and to go back and find work using the calendar on Schoology.

We are also looking to establish 'day' folders rather than 'subject' folders on each class page for ease of access.

Explaining work set

All class teachers will post a weekly plan for all stages on Monday. This will outline the week's learning intentions and any relevant teaching points (Maths/Lit/Hum/RE) that need to be made. We will start over the next two weeks to post short videos which will talk through the plan and explain any salient teaching points. This can be done directly by class teachers and through directing pupils towards existing online materials.

Pieces of work to be submitted will be identified at the start of the week.

With the exception of P7, one teacher will be responsible for each year group (two teachers will look after P7) and therefore you will have a clear point of contact. The teachers who will oversee work are Mrs Daly, Mrs Crolla, Ms McWilliams, Mrs Gault, Mrs Carmichael, Mrs McLean, Mrs Verrechia, Mr McKinney and Mr Campbell. Mrs Frisina and Mrs Gravina will continue to oversee languages, Ms Skeritt for Music, Mr McClintock with Mrs Hartshorne and Dr Denheen for Science and Mrs Patterson with Mrs Hutchinson for Art.



All this will be overseen by the Deputes who can be contacted directly about any learning and teaching (Mr McHugh), pastoral (Miss Sharp) and Early Years (Mrs Brown).

We have furloughed some staff in order to most effectively manage our resources in these very different times, but will make no compromises in the effectiveness of teaching and learning albeit that this is being delivered very differently. There is a little more about this in the general letter that is being sent out later today to all parents.

Submissions

We have factored in some time for pupils to 'catch up' with Mathematics and Literacy if needed with Humanities/ Topic and RE work being posted on Thursdays. Thursdays are identified as the day for Mathematics/Literacy submissions. Wednesdays for Science/MFL submissions for P4-7. It should be clear to pupils at the start of the week which activity is the 'submission piece' for Maths and Literacy. Pupils can submit work before Thursday but that is when teachers will 'collect in the (virtual) jotters' and mark.

Feedback

As before, other pieces may be submitted through the week and teachers/ Deputes may comment on those if appropriate. We are intending to 'poll' students on Schoology to gauge their understanding and we will look at this further going forward.

We will 'mark and return' one submission from each pupil.

From w/c 27.4.20, Friday mornings will be for a quick check- up on the week's work using a Quiz or similar with questions on the Maths/Lit/Hum/RE taught that week. We can judge how close pupils come to our Learning Intentions laid out at the start of the week which will help with tracking learning and understanding.

On Fridays we are aiming to post a feedback video/ audio recording reflecting on the week's work.

We are aiming to have the above incorporated into our provision by the end of w/c 27.4.20 and will continue to refine what we are doing. We have upgraded our Schoology provision and this should be in place by the middle of next week. I hope this email provides a little clarity on some of the changes we are making in order to make the learning experience as positive as possible until we can get back to the College.

What is written here is an outline and please do continue to engage with us to assist in developing and all we are doing.

Many thanks for your continuing support and for supporting your children's education. Your understanding as we do our best to respond to every new challenge we face as educators is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Matthew Bartlett, Emma Sharp, Frank McHugh and Karen Brown

Head Master and Junior School Deputes