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Dear parents and carers,

In what has been an unbelievable start to 2021, we now have the added joy of 'snow' in the mix! I hope all critical workers have been able to travel safely to and from their workplaces, with the adverse weather conditions. For the children, it has offered a great deal of excitement with the deep levels of snow we have had - I hope they had some fun!

Thank you to all parents and carers for continuing to work with us during these ever-changing times. We are working hard to support so many children in school and so many children at home. This dual way of working offers huge additional challenges, but I am so impressed with the way children, parents and staff have adapted to these changes. We all understand the demands and pressures of remote learning; having two children myself and having tried to juggle home schooling and being a headteacher, I absolutely understand the pressures and parent guilt which we can all feel during these difficult times. Please take a moment to recognise the positive things you are achieving each day. Your child's wellbeing and your own is key.

We have set the required hours of work, as directed by the government, and it is great if children can complete this. Equally so, they may only complete the phonics and mathematics - that is also great. If you are struggling for time, devices or trying to balance your own work demands, English and Mathematics are the priority subjects. Your child can hand their work in, even if they have not managed to complete the wider curriculum tasks. This way they will still receive feedback. Last week and again today, staff have made phone calls to support any families who have not managed to engage with the home learning regularly. As always, the whole purpose of this is to work with yourself to best support your children.

Here are a few questions and answers that you may find useful:

New questions have been added in red.

What is different about the home learning this time?

During the previous 'Lockdown', the focus was on setting tasks which reinforced learning that had already taken place in school. The main change this time is on the importance of children continuing to learn the curriculum as intended. This is why the learning that is being set shows a teacher modelling, and teaching the children for many of the core sessions such as phonics, writing and mathematics.

These video clips are the most important part in supporting your child with their new learning. We would recommend that they watch these, even if it is not always possible to complete the learning activity set.

I am trying to work and support my children with home learning - what is the priority in terms of learning?

When building our home learning offer, we have tried to build in the flexibility for parents to enable their children to access the core learning at the times which best suits. This is why we have completed recorded videos for the classes each day, so parents can access this anytime from 7:30am. We would therefore recommend parents focus on the phonics, English and mathematics parts of work set if time is limited. Again, engaging in any of these activities will be helpful. Do what you can - we are all in different circumstances.



The Government keep mentioning all of the millions of laptops they have provided schools with; how many have Rothwell Primary School received from the Government?

As we did not have to close a bubble during Autumn 2, we were not able to access any laptops. Now there is a 'Lockdown', we have been told we are able to access a very small number of laptops (less than one per class). These have been ordered though we are still waiting to receive them. **We are still awaiting delivery of these.**

My children are in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2; can I just have a paper pack?

As mentioned above, as children need to watch the videos set on Google Classroom or Tapestry in order to access new learning, a paper pack would not support with this. The children must be taught the learning content, which is why the videos are crucial.

The school down the road is doing something different - why is this?

It is important to reiterate, each and every school will be in a different position in terms of: the number of staff shielding or isolating; the number of critical workers they have; the number of children classed as vulnerable; the number of children on roll, plus many more factors. As always, the leadership team and governing body will make decisions based on what is right for our school.

This week, Ofsted released a document '*What Works Well in Remote Education*'. This identifies that the type of learning provided by the school (i.e. building on previous knowledge and skills; ensuring regular practice) is more important than how this is delivered (i.e. live teaching compared to recorded teaching). The full report, which is definitely worth a read, can be found by clicking [HERE](#). We feel our current offer reflects much of this guidance and will continue to evolve over the coming weeks.

Included in our remote learning offer this week:

- ✓ Teachers have made a daily, home learning video, welcoming the children to the morning, sharing any key learning points from the previous day and introducing the learning set for the day. Children have been set an English, mathematics and a wider curriculum topic (plus phonics for EYFS and KS1 children) using Google Classroom or Tapestry. Staff have been responding to children's work and answering questions in the 'Private Comments' section.
 - ✓ Your child can access 'Rising Stars' to read the online reading books which they have been allocated, as well as other IT programmes set within each year group: TT Rockstars, Spelling Frame, Lexia...
 - ✓ For children at home, almost all classes have been able to hold a 'Check-in' session with groups of children at home. This is a great way to support children's connection and wellbeing, and is one of the most important parts for our children. There are still a few classes which still need to complete these next week (these will be re-arranged due to the weather and members of staff having to collect their own children from school early yesterday). **We aim for these Check-in sessions to take place weekly where possible.** You will be informed about these sessions at least the day before, via your child's GC or Tapestry account.
 - ✓ A daily physical challenge or link posted on Google Classroom.
 - ✓ Stories or chapters from the class novel have been added to your child's Google Stream/Tapestry account.
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- ✓ Next week we will have a live assembly. Parents will receive an email with this link on. It will be sent the day prior to the assembly taking place.
 - ✓ We have also tried the live guided reading format with a small number of children in school and will aim to implement these next week. Again, you will be informed via your child's GC/Tapestry account. It is important that adults are present to support and monitor their child during these live sessions, as explained in the Remote Learning Policy (See Below).

Remote Learning Policy

As we have moved into another phase of Home Learning, we have updated our Remote Learning Policy and Remote Learning Home-School agreement. You will receive these today. There will be two documents sent out to you using your ParentPay email:

- The first document is the Remote Learning Policy. Please read carefully as it outlines our Remote Learning Provision and how we will ensure the provision is safe and secure. The principles of the policy remain the same for Early Years and KS1/KS2, however, the platforms used to deliver the remote learning differ – Early Years will be using Tapestry and Zoom; KS1 and KS2 will be using Google Meets and Zoom. The policy you receive will reflect this.
- The second document is a link to a Google Form which needs completing for each child to say that you agree to the principles and expectations within the policy. **Please complete the agreement by 12.00pm on Tuesday 19th January 2021.**

If you have any questions regarding this, please email the school at admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk.

With regard to our position on Nursery places: due to the large number of children currently accessing school, and the staffing required for the home learning preparation, responding and monitoring, as well as the many other additions to our usual roles which the partial opening has created, at this time, our school position regarding Nursery provision remains the same. We are awaiting further guidance from Leeds City Council, who are still awaiting a response for the DfE (Department for Education). We will continue to offer Nursery places for children of critical workers or those deemed vulnerable. If there are any further developments with this, we will keep you updated.

COVID Update – children at home

Please notify the school of any positive cases of COVID, even if your child is accessing remote learning and hasn't been in school. We have been asked to add this information to a daily form which we return to the DfE. If your child has not been in school for the last week, please title the subject 'Positive case – remote learning'.

COVID update@ children attending school:

As shared previously, the measures below still apply, however, **I do need to stress the importance of parents socially distancing and keeping 2m+ apart from each other**, particularly at the end of the school day, when collecting children. With the increased transmissibility of this disease, this is more important than ever.

- PLEASE DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the three main COVID symptoms.
 - A high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
 - A new continuous cough.
 - A loss or change to their sense of taste or smell.
- If they have a positive result – please email us immediately with the subject named as POSITIVE TEST and a copy of the confirmation, so we can review any action that may need taking to keep people safe. admin@rothwell-pri.leeds.sch.uk
- If your child has to isolate, they must stay at home. If they have siblings that need dropping off and you have no one who can support you with this, please contact the school office and we will work with you to find a solution.
- Please email the results, even if it is a household member, before bringing your child back to school.
- If you are outside, within 1 metre of another parent for 1 minute (with or without a mask) you would be classed as a close contact if they were to have the virus. People are contagious from 2 days before they even have any symptoms. This would mean you would have to isolate for 14 days if Test and Trace had to track close contacts. Please try to maintain 2m+.



- If your child shows any of the 3 symptoms, we have to contact you to ask you to isolate as a household and anyone with symptoms must then access a test. This is the same for children across the country. As a parent myself, I understand the difficulties and additional stress this may cause, but we have to do everything we can to keep our school community as safe as possible.
- Please **follow the 1 way system at all times please.**
- Please try to ensure only 1 family member enters the school site to drop off or collect children, in order to reduce unnecessary risks.

Please try to look after yourselves - brighter days are ahead. We are here if your need any support. Please just email and ask for a member of the pastoral team to make contact. This may be financial, domestic violence, difficulties accessing services, concerns about your wellbeing or mental health or that of your children. We are here for you.

Thank you, as always, to our amazing children who are attending school and those who are working remotely. Your ability to adapt and make the best of every situation, is inspiring - just wonderful! Thank you all for your ongoing support and thank you to the incredible staff team and governors.

Many thanks, keep safe.

Leila Rothenburg

Headteacher