

## **Term Dates 2020/21**

### **4<sup>th</sup> February**

Governors L&M 6.00pm

### **12<sup>th</sup> February**

Last day before half term

### **22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Children return to school

### **3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Governors PAT Meeting  
6.00pm

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Full Governors 6pm

## **Message from School**

We have all certainly had an interesting start to the beginning of 2021. We would like to thank our whole school community for pulling together and working hard to ensure our children are either receiving remote learning or the provision they need in school. A lot of organisation is required to enable this to work successfully, and it would not have been possible without the support everyone has given each other and the school – thank you all! We are aware that our remote learning has posed a few issues during the past two weeks and we are improving things where we can for future weeks. All we ask at the moment is to bear with us; these systems and online platforms are new to us too and we are learning along with you. We are confident that each week will become more straightforward and smoother for us all. Nobody wants to be in the current situation we are faced with and we are sure you will agree that all we can do is work together to make the very best of the situation we are all in.

## **Remote Home Learning**

We would like to say an enormous 'Thank You' to all of you for supporting your child/children with home learning. We genuinely appreciate the effort and dedication shown in the amazing work which the children have produced and shared with their teachers. Staff are extremely impressed and beyond proud of the children. We understand and recognise the huge responsibility that you face in delivering home learning and supporting and caring for your child/ children at home.

We know home learning is a challenge, especially with so many of you working from home. The government have said children at home should be doing 3 or 4 hours minimum of home learning a day. We are providing this through our online platforms Tapestry, Seesaw and Google Classroom. In addition to this, with other platforms the children can access such as TT Rock Stars, Mathletics, Spelling Shed, Purple Mash etc, there is more available than the suggested amount, for those parents/carers who require more learning. The 3 or 4 hours learning a day does not mean the children need to spend this amount of time at a screen or recording work. Teachers are trying to incorporate creative elements and practical sessions and tasks where the children can be away from the screen and busy in the garden, or complete small tasks during their daily exercise. We are working on introducing more of these types of tasks going forward, to ensure there is a balance of learning set. Our aim is for our children to maintain their learning wherever possible, however, we know many of you are under a great deal of stress and pressure and so we completely understand that you will just do what you can. We are not asking for people to expect their children to work for hours on end – this would not be good for anyone. Please do what suits you, your child and your family circumstances. All we can do is our best – and we know that you and your children will be doing just that.

Teachers will feedback on the children's learning via the online platforms. Sometimes this will be individual feedback and other times a message will be sent to the whole class. As the teachers are also in school we cannot guarantee the feedback will be daily, but the teachers will make things work in a way that fits best for their class. You can contact the teachers with any queries and questions you have via email, but again please bear with us if you do not hear back from the teacher that day, as mentioned there are days they are delivering the remote learning to the children in school. However, if you have an urgent query please do contact school directly and we will be able to help.

## Devices

For our remote learning, we have tried to use systems that are accessible in many formats. Tapestry, SeeSaw and Google Classroom can be accessed on phones, tablets, laptops and now we also know it can be accessed via Xbox and PlayStation. There are instructions here for you to try: <https://www.pocket-lint.com/apps/news/google/155204-how-to-use-google-classroom-on-xbox-and-playstation>  
We are expecting delivery of a few devices from the DFE in the coming weeks. If you are having any problems with your device at home, or your child does not have access to a device to support their home learning, please get in touch with your child's class teacher and we will endeavor to support you with this.

## Google Meet / Weekly Check Ins

This week our KS2 classes completed their first Google Meet session, where all the children can come on screen to see their friends and have a quick catch up with their teacher. Their teacher can discuss the learning that has been completed and what they will be setting. It is also an opportunity for the children to ask any questions they have. Our KS1 meetings will start from next week. We hope to keep the same day and time each week, however we will inform you of any changes. The children in school will also be able to access this meeting, so it will be a fantastic opportunity for the whole class to come together and have a sense of belonging. We have had really positive feedback for the children who attended the KS2 meets this week.

The days and times for next week's meetings are shown below:

Monday: Year 4 = 10.00am

Tuesday: Year 6 = 10.00am and Year 3 = 1.00pm

Wednesday: Year 2 = 9.30am and Year 5 = 11.00am

Thursday: Year 1 = 10.00am and Year R = 10.30am

The children will need to be on their online platform – Tapestry, Seesaw and Google classroom at the time of the meeting to access the link. On some platforms the link will only go live at the exact time of the meeting and you will not be able to see the link beforehand. Please bear with us if technical difficulties arise for these sessions. We hope the children enjoy seeing their class friends.

## Bug Club

We have invested in a one year subscription to the online reading programme Bug Club, for all classes from Year R – Y6. Bug Club captures children's imagination and nurtures lifelong readers, and it's proven to work. Bug Club provides interactive eBooks and a unique learning platform which is proven to make 30 months of progress in reading in just 18 months. All the children should have received their login details for the online programme from their class teacher. If you have not received these, or are struggling to access the platform please contact your child's class teacher. We truly hope this will be a great addition to our reading curriculum in school. In addition, it will be a fantastic alternative to the hard copies of books from our reading scheme, which we would struggle to loan out in the current climate.

## ClubsComplete

ClubsComplete will continue to run their after-school wraparound care until 4.30pm, for the Key Worker children currently attending school. There currently is not the demand for the 5.30pm finish during this lockdown. We really want to ensure we can continue to run the club going forward. There needs to be a set number of children attending the club to ensure it is financially viable. Please continue to book your child/children into the club during this half term, if you need the wraparound childcare. The children who attend really enjoy their time at the club.

