



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

15/01/2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move into the second week of this lockdown and schools only open to 'vulnerable children' and those of critical workers, I am sure we are all finding these times different, challenging and at times stressful. We hope that you are all following the rules (keeping up with the regular changes in expectations) and keeping your families safe.

We recognise that learning from home will be a different experience for each of our families and that the circumstances of each of our families are unique to each family unit. We want to ensure that our community feels supported in their remote learning experiences and whilst we are committed to adhering to the government guidelines of 3 hours for EYFS and KS1 and 4 hours for KS2, we fully understand if this is not possible to complete on a daily, regular basis.

What will remote learning look like?

Until we reopen fully as a school again, class teachers and other school adults will be posting to Tapestry (EYFS) and Seesaw (KS1 and KS2) the planned daily learning. This will have a balance of digital, paper based and practical activities to engage with. There may be activities embedded in Seesaw, links to other websites as well as signposting to platforms we use in school such as Bedrock, Teach Your Monster to Read, PiXL etc.... all dependent on the age of your child.

Please can we ask that parents/carers use their own logins to communicate with the class team and comment/respond to their child's outcomes. Children's logins should only be used by the children and any parent/carer comments made via a child's account will not be approved or responded to.

Each class will offer a daily story session where children can join us virtually and see their adults and other children in the class. We have scheduled these across school as we are aware that there are children who are currently relying on sharing digital devices. We are aiming to record these and share links for those who cannot join us live – however we need to iron out a few technical issues for this to work successfully – please be patient with us.

Adults working with your child will review learning posted to Seesaw and Tapestry and give feedback via the platforms in use. Subsequent work will be reflective of the successes of previous learning.

Teachers and other adults will be available to message via Tapestry or Seesaw if you have queries or questions regarding your child's learning, however please do not expect an immediate response (which I am sure you would not) as we are busy supporting children in school as well. Any queries or questions that are of any other nature should be directed to the school office via admin@norwoodschool.co.uk, as class based adults will not respond to these via Tapestry or Seesaw.

If a school adult sends you a message, please do not feel pressured to respond immediately as we fully understand the pressure that you have at home, possibly working from home, supporting your child's learning, caring for other family members and running a household.

Hopefully we will not be in a position where one of our teachers/adults or a close family member becomes poorly. However, if this is the case, please be aware that this may affect the way that we deliver distance learning at that time, meaning we may refer your child directly to the activities on the school website.



How can you implement distance learning in your home?

There is a huge amount of advice on the internet about this, almost too much! We've come up with a few key tips which will hopefully help at this challenging time:

1. **Don't try to do too much.** You might start with 30 minutes / an hour a day and then build up. We would advocate no more than the hours the government suggest in any one day.
2. **Try to keep a routine.** This doesn't mean a 'school day timetable'. This is a routine that works for your family and with older children would be best agreed with them. It might involve setting times for 'work' during the day and times for 'recreation / relaxation'. *If you want any help with how to set a routine, please contact your child's teacher through Seesaw or Tapestry.*
3. **Build in plenty of breaks and make sure your child drinks lots of water.** The children are used to having short 'outdoor play breaks' / healthy snacks regularly when they work.
4. **Learning doesn't have to be at a table.** Depending on the task, there may be a much more suitable place for your child to do an activity.
5. **Be kind to yourself.** Lots of us are anxious and still trying to adjust to this new way of living. Lots of us are also still working and trying to balance this support for learning. Don't feel guilty if you miss a day, or just decide to spend a day having fun as a family, just do what you can. This time as a family is valuable and will hopefully be one of the positive things that we are able to take away from this experience.

Childcare

It is the guidance of the government that where children can be cared for safely at home, even when parents/carers are critical workers, they should be. Children given a school place under the vulnerable category, illness aside, should be with us every school day. It is a privilege to be continuing to provide an essential 'last resort' setting for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

It is important to remember that if your child has a school place, they cannot attend if they, or anyone in your household is showing symptoms of COVID-19: a continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or loss of or change in taste/smell. Please let school know by calling 01733 574717 or emailing absence@norwoodschool.co.uk

Free School Meals

We have reviewed how to deliver food parcels to our families eligible for FSM (not UFSM) and have decided that this would not be practical. Therefore, for families who qualify for this provision, we are working with the voucher providers and will issue these as soon as possible (these will be back dated to 06/01/2021). Please note that if you have a school place, you will not receive a voucher as your child will receive a meal in school.

School Policies & Documents

Some of our school policies have to be adapted dynamically at this time and whilst we will not be updating all of our documentation to reflect this, those that are amended will be published on the school website – www.norwood-school.co.uk.

Our risk assessment is under continuous review and I am pleased to share with you that the review of the document has been approved by the Local Authority and submitted to the relevant Unions.

Please look after yourselves and your families. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or require any further support. We hope to see you soon. Stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

