

## What a difference a few hours make! 😊

The last week has been a little bit of a whirlwind and since my letter to you on New Year's Eve, there have been some huge changes. Although it was lovely to see lots of pupils on Monday, I do have to question why this decision was not made at the weekend so that we could have concentrated on planning the start of term for all pupils. But here we are, and I really appreciate everyone's patience with the ever-changing plans. I must admit I was a little frustrated in my communication to parents on Monday evening – I do try to avoid showing my emotions in letters but apologies if this came across too strongly! 😊

This Press has been put together very quickly and we still have not got all of the answers but we wanted to highlight a few things. No doubt there will be more letters coming home over the next few days so please look out for them!



**Children of Critical Workers** As you are aware, we have been asked to provide places for children of critical workers and also vulnerable children. We had a large number of requests and a significant rise from the first lockdown (over 10 times more children were in school today than on the first day of lockdown in March). I have to be honest and say this is a big challenge for us. It is vital that we keep the school as safe as possible for both pupils and staff who are in. The local rates of infection have increased at a significant rate over the past few days and we must play our part in reducing this as soon as possible. We have asked critical workers to only take a place if they have no other options for childcare. Please be clear, we will always be here for NHS staff and other critical workers that need us and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for all they do. My wife is a matron in the NHS and so I know the pressure they are under and the incredible risks they are taking for us all. It is also worth remembering that this time childcare bubbles are allowed and details about this can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household)

The other challenge is that if we have too many pupils in school, then our ability to support pupils at home will be reduced. If a teacher has a class full of children in school then they are going to find it difficult to provide support for those working at home. See below about how we want to make remote learning as effective as possible, but the best people to support pupils at home are these who have been working with them directly at school. We really appreciate your support with this and we know hard parents have looked for other options.

### Remote Learning – Some initial information!

Our remote learning during this new lockdown period will be different to how it was earlier in the year - we have learnt a lot since then! Until Friday, our emergency learning plans are on our website and can be accessed by clicking here: [emergency learning plans](#). Setting emergency plans follows guidance from Hampshire County Council as it allows us time to put into place learning for the children to move forward.

From Friday 8th January, remote learning for all pupils will be via their own Google Classroom. Every child has their own login information to access this and their username and password will be in the front of their home/school diary. Our website carries helpful information for parents about how to use Google Classroom and you can find that information by clicking here: [Information for Parents about Google Classroom](#).

Using Google Classroom for remote learning means that learning can be more interactive for children and will also allow teachers to communicate with children more easily. We hope to have at least one session each morning as a 'registration' period and where children will be able to engage with their class teacher. As we said earlier in the Press, if we have in school children of only absolutely essential critical workers, then our staff in school are going to be more able to support children learning remotely from home.

The government has laid out expectations for how much work children should be doing from home during this time and we will do our best to provide this whilst also bearing in mind that this is not an ideal situation for any of us.

We are currently working hard to finalise our plans for children's learning to continue from home and will send home a letter with full details tomorrow, do look out for it! Our plan is to launch our Google Classroom remote learning on Friday 8th January and this letter will contain more information about this.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this challenging time. We know we say it often at the moment, but your support really is appreciated!

**Breakfast Club** Unlike last lockdown, we are hoping to provide a small breakfast club, starting at 8:15 to support critical worker parents that need this facility to work. Please book a place in the normal way via Scopay. Breakfast Club will start Monday and will be held in the main hall (if any details changes with venue, etc, then we will be in touch.) Children will have toast and juice, as normal in breakfast club. The children will be separated from children who are not in their pod so not mixing will take place.

**Devices for Home** We know devices at home are a challenge for a lot of parents. Despite being promised 40 Chromebooks from the government scheme we have been sent 8, although we have managed to secure another 14 so have 22 we can lend out to families who need them. Obviously, this is not going to cover the demand and so we will have to make some difficult decisions. We have been told that we will receive a few more but secondary schools have been identified as the priority. If you would like to be considered for a Chromebook then please could you fill in the following survey and we will try and sort out the allocations as soon as we can. Apologies if you are not selected to receive one at this time – we are looking at other ways of getting more devices as soon as we can. We will continue to use the information provided by you when we receive some more machines from the Department of Education. The link to the survey is:

<https://forms.gle/rMGJvm8VqeeC2CJM9>

**Virtual Learning Data** The government has started a scheme for increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support students. This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks, to support children and young people to access remote education. The networks for this mobile data, who might be able to benefit, are: EE, Sky Mobile, Smarty, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile. Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage. The school can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- Do not have fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

If you believe this applies to your child(ren) then please complete the request form below via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/WbH1j1V9JNUP5fSWA>

**BBC Lessons** Today we heard the good news that the BBC will be providing some daily lessons on their channels and, when we have details, we will also try to use them in our planning and will share with you all.

**Financial Support** Just a reminder of the announcement in December that we have been allocated a small amount of funding specifically for families who are currently struggling to make ends meet due to the impact of COVID. This could be due a drop in income because of furlough or perhaps the loss of employment. The money would be to purchase food and other essentials.

We realise that this can be a sensitive subject but we urge you to let us know if you are being affected in this way by contacting us in confidence via the school office.

We are very keen to allocate this money to those in need at this time especially as any unallocated money has to be returned to the Local Authority.

**Games Machines** We have heard that Google Classrooms can be accessed using games machines, but it is not something we are sure about. We have added some instructions we have found for the Xbox and PlayStation. We must stress that we cannot guarantee these instructions work, but we thought it was worth sharing.

**STOP PRESS:** We have just heard that the Year 6 SATs for 2021 have been cancelled.



Tim Deery & Vicky Windross

**Using X Box or Play Station to access HWB**

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

**X Box**

1. Plug a key board in to the X box USB slot
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in: HWB and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work through one drive and use key packages including:
  - Word
  - Teams
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Your emails
6. To move around you use the X Box control or plug a mouse



**Play Station**

1. Identify the Play Station internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PS4 logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type HWB into the browser and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work through one drive and use key packages including:
  - Word
  - Teams
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Your emails

