



Orleans Primary School

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Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Dear Orleans Parents and Carers,

Firstly I would like to thank many of you for your positivity and the messages of support during these difficult times, it is very much appreciated by the whole staff team. It is evident that you appreciate how hard our teachers are working within this current climate.

This is a very challenging time for everyone and all of us here at Orleans Primary school cannot wait to be in a position to welcome back the whole school community once more. I fully recognise the many difficulties and challenges you are experiencing at this time in juggling work commitments and tackling remote learning, which in many cases is without the support of vulnerable friends and family. For those of you who have contacted us with questions over the last few weeks, I hope that you feel we have listened and responded to those effectively.

Our aim in writing this letter is to support you and your child with learning remotely over the next few weeks. We have addressed below the questions which were raised by Parent Reps from across the school during our meeting last Friday. This should help to clarify the expectations parents have in terms of how much time children should spend on activities and what to do if your child is not completing all the work set by their class teacher.

What we expect from your child

Every child is an individual and we know that children will react differently to learning outside the structure of the classroom. However, it is important that your child engages with learning at home to their best ability. They must log on daily to their Google classroom and attempt the work set by teachers. The expectation is that as a minimum each child will complete the Core Subjects - English, Maths and Phonics everyday, this will ensure their skills and knowledge in these areas continue to build. We are providing lessons from across all the other subject areas including PE which will ensure the children are still accessing a broad and balanced curriculum. All primary schools have been tasked by the DFE with providing between 3 to 4 hours of learning every day and whilst we have adhered to this we understand children will need 'brain' breaks both during activities and/or between them. I have included some ideas for 'breaking up the lessons' further on in this letter.

Each year group's classroom has a suggested timetable which is posted for you to access, but we purposefully have allowed flexibility to suit various different households and their individual needs. We do monitor which pupils are engaging with learning, just as we would if the children were in school, if pupils aren't engaging with the learning and limited work is submitted via the hand in function we will use the following strategies to provide additional support:



Richmond upon Thames
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- A reminder to submit work during the live weekly Google meet.
- A 'check in' call from a member of Orleans staff to explain how to submit work or offer suggestions on how to approach tasks.
- Discussions with parents about how best to support them in engaging in school work.
- During the phone call we can talk to your child to give them support with tackling the work.

Expectations of each activity

From the week of the 8th February we will adapt how activities will be posted to further support you. These will be uploaded by teachers onto the classrooms by the earlier time of 6pm.

- How long we expect the children to engage in an activity for
- For writing -the suggested length of writing should be - i.e 5 sentences, 1 paragraph
- A learning objective in the description for each lesson
- Identification of whether a lesson is expected to be independent or requires support from parents - i.e talk partners)

We expect children to be submitting work on a daily basis so that it gives teachers time to mark and respond back with comments. (see the attached guide for support on this) Please can you assist us with this by submitting at least English and Maths assignments by 3:30pm.

What you can do to help your child

First of all - well done, tackling school work at home with your child is challenging in the current circumstances. We know how hard many of you are working on this. Please remember, younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can;

- Break the sessions up into smaller chunks.
- Watch the pre recorded video, have a break, snack, play
- Then attempt the task set by the teachers.
- Encourage the child using positivity to explain things back to you

Remember that in school we break sessions up with playtimes and lunchtimes and children should have time in between different lessons to do so. This could be free play, puzzles, drawing or art work.

At the same time, we don't expect you to watch the videos with your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned. Teachers set tasks they know the class can attempt and understand and therefore pitch them at the right level.

Our top tips:

- Set a routine for remote learning. (You can find examples of timetables on the google classroom)
- Set boundaries and expectations with your child. Draw up some ground rules for working from home.
- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to your families routine
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active
- Set up a reward system at home to motivate your child

Live Singing sessions

We are trialing some live singing sessions this week and next week, for pupils working at home. These are being led by Mrs Ricketts, our Music teacher and Myself via Google Meets. Links for KS1(Years 1 & 2) and LKS2 (Years 3 & 4) have been posted on each class's Google classroom and we hope the children will enjoy the sessions. We know how much singing can lift ones mood and improve the mental health of those doing so. If these are successful we will look at how EYFS and UKS2 could also be involved for the following week.

Extra support

Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact the teachers directly using the year group emails for specific queries regarding learning and lessons planned. Please contact the office if you have any other concerns

Attached to this letter is a How-to guide for Google Classroom which we encourage all parents to read to further assist them in using the suite as well as showing you how to access assignments, submit work and receive feedback on work

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Beckie Bennett

Deputy Head and Remote Learning Lead

We have also included some FAQs below which came up from parents and should help to provide further clarification on some points.

“My child has too much work to do”

- The Government directs us to ensure that we must deliver 3-4 hours of curriculum learning each day.
- We set a minimum that we expect pupils to achieve and then provide additional tasks for those that want it. We recognise that different families have different expectations and situations and so try to cater for this in our provision.
- Please focus on English, Maths and Phonics as a minimum.
- If you are still requiring further support, please contact me via the school office.

“My child is having too much screen time”

- We recommend daily reading sessions and have posted suggested book lists via the classrooms.
- Where possible get outside and do some exercise, go for a mid day walk.
- Allow free play - a lot of learning can happen during this time.
- Puzzles and board games are great problem solving activities.
- We also encourage children to have opportunities to play games and other activities indoors and outdoors which don't involve screen time.
- We understand that increased screen time will happen during lockdown and this is something that unfortunately we cannot control.

"I sent my child's teacher a query and I haven't received a response"

- Teachers will try and respond to comments as soon possible.
- If you have a query about your child's learning, please do not post on Google classroom but email the teachers directly via the year group emails or via the office to Mrs Bennett.
- As you can imagine, balancing an online classroom, reformatting flip charts and powerpoints, recording videos, teaching in school and commenting on work as well as emails takes considerable time. Please bear with us on this part.