

Mexborough St John The Baptist C of E Primary School

Together we believe, together we succeed.



Sedgefield Way, Mexborough, South Yorkshire, S64 0BE.

Headteacher: - Mr A Minor



Newsletter 08.01.2021

This week unfolded to be somewhat different to how we imagined returning in January.

I would like to say thank you to all parents, carers and children for your patience and understanding whilst we dealt with the ever changing situation.

Welfare Checks

Welfare checks will begin next week, a staff member will text or telephone on a Tuesday. If a response is not received a further phone call followed by a home visit if necessary will be made. It is important that we keep regular contact with our parents and children, so please respond to messages and calls.

Home Learning

Please see the letter below, which is also available via Edmodo & class email.

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you and your family are well and had a lovely Christmas.

As you are aware, all remote learning is now being set via the online platform Edmodo. If you are experiencing problems accessing this, please email your child's class teacher (using their class email address) for support.

I appreciate that these are stressful times and I know that many parents will be overwhelmed with the new expectations of remote learning. Please be aware that as a school we **have** to follow the new guidelines that the government has put in place. These are much more demanding than in the first lockdown.

The government have now stated that all schools 'must':

- set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects
- provide remote education equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. The amount of remote education provided should be as a minimum:
 - ✓ Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
 - ✓ Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject so that pupils can progress through the school's curriculum
- select a digital platform for remote education provision that will be used consistently across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback
- have systems for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern.



Being a one form entry school, all of our teachers are currently in class teaching full time while trying to simultaneously balance the governments expectations of remote learning. So please do be patient with us if we aren't able to answer your queries or provide feedback straight away. Because all staff continue to work on site, we will continue to use the online platform 'Edmodo'. At present there are no plans to live stream using different platforms as we don't have the staffing capacity to do this while teaching classes at the same time.

From next week teachers will continue to set three hours of remote learning in KS1 and four hours in KS2 each day. Please continue to work with your child/children to complete as much as possible. This is particularly important in reading, writing and math because the learning is sequential and they will need to have completed the learning from one day to understand the learning the next day.

From Monday, class teachers will be making more use of videos, either of themselves or others modelling some areas of teaching. Hopefully this will make some things easier to understand. As a school we will continue to monitor how this is used and make improvements or changes where possible.

If you feel that we are not providing enough home learning or if the remote learning is not age appropriate, then please contact us.

If pupils do not appear to be engaging in home learning

- As mentioned above the government are expecting schools to contact parents daily if pupils do not appear to be engaging with remote learning. In the first instance this will be to offer support with access to remote learning and help to iron out any technical issues that you may be experiencing.
- School will continue to check daily if pupils are engaging with home learning and contact parents daily if engagement continues to be a concern.
- We will work with families to identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern.
- If school cannot contact families a home visit will be carried out.
- Your child may be allocated a school place if engagement continues to be a concern.

I appreciate that there is a significant amount of anxiety around Covid-19 and home learning. Some teachers have put a timetable on their Edmodo page but this is just to reflect what might be happening in the classroom. Please feel free to either use this to provide structure for your child at home or alternatively adapt this to complete learning tasks at times that are more suitable for you each day.

We are all human and understand that there may be the odd occasion when a child is unable to complete a task for one reason or another. However, by working together we will be able to continue to provide the education that your child needs. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr A Minor