



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

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Dear Families

Happy New Year! This is not quite the start to 2021 and the new term we were expecting, even just five days ago, but I hope this time round we can all be comforted by the thought that things are set to improve as vaccination roll outs gain momentum.

As you know, over the last seven days or so, the situation for primary schools has been ever changing; the nature of the way advice has been given to us has made it impossible for us to have been as prepared as we would have liked to be. We were, as you know, planning for and hoping to have all children back in school on Tuesday. Following the situation reversal on Monday night, we changed our focus from opening fully to reviewing and adapting our risk assessment based on new circumstances and responded to the new directive about switching to remote provision. We have adapted to these changes and are now able to offer a home learning plan and limited places for vulnerable children and many children of critical workers unable to keep their children at home safely. Our staff have responded with their usual positive energy and have a programme for teaching that has already been launched.

It goes without saying that the increased risk posed by this new strain means that we are limiting the number of children that we can accommodate safely in school. That being the case, we must prioritise those children who are vulnerable and cannot be looked after safely at home and/ or whose parents are critical workers who cannot work from home. My preference, like you, would be to have all children in school but this is not possible and demand for in school places is high, but essentially limited.

Please note: All the information to follow relates largely to Key Stage 1 and 2. A separate letter to Windmills detailing their remote provision will follow shortly.

Remote Learning

Thank you for your patience as we have striven to get information out to you and plan for the weeks ahead. As you know, this week teachers have provided a mixture of tasks and a few zoom 'meetings' with their classes. We would very much like to increase our contact with children, through 'zoom' lessons and daily contact, moving forward.

Expectations during this Time

Each class will be issued with a timetable for the day (eSchools and our school website). Our expectation is that all children will follow this timetable and complete the work set each day. We do understand that you will also be juggling home working and the needs of different children so may need to be flexible on precise timings, but we do need to see the day's work from all children. We expect the children to be working for at least three hours a day and slightly more in Year 5/6.

Live Recorded Lessons

Next week, we plan for all children to have at least one live recorded lesson Monday to Thursday and daily contact throughout. This will be in addition to three other lessons which will be a mixture of recorded lessons and independent work set. The [weekly timetables](#), available on our school website and on eSchools this evening, show more detail about our

planned offer. We will evaluate this over the week and if this is successful, we hope to offer more live recorded lessons in subsequent weeks.

'Live recorded' means that the teacher will deliver the lesson to the children in her class/ group at a set time, but that this will also be recorded and uploaded to eSchools for those who had difficulties logging on etc. Being part of the live lesson is clearly preferable as it allows for questions and tailored explanations.

Links will be sent out by the teachers via eSchools and these will be 'recurring meetings' so the same link can be used each week.

Registers

Registers will be kept, logging children that attend the live lessons and complete the set work; those that do not will be contacted by school staff. We expect children to attend the live lessons if they possibly can and will work with parents to help overcome any difficulties they have accessing this.

Safeguarding

We hope to be able to see children whilst we live teach but for them not to appear on our recording. This may rely on children following the instructions given by the teacher not to turn cameras back on. Recordings will only be uploaded to eSchools and therefore only accessible to those who have the username and password, so if there is an error and children do appear on the recording, it will **not** be in the public domain. It is therefore essential that school usernames and passwords are not shared and that all households follow the 'code' previously signed and returned during the last Lockdown. (see attached)

Uploading of Work and Marking

We fully recognise that this aspect of remote learning creates challenges for both families and staff. The staff are naturally very keen to look at all the children's work and respond to their hard work and effort. This week and during the previous Lockdown many of you took photos of work completed and uploaded as requested. This often meant that one piece of work for one subject created three or four different documents to be uploaded. The teacher then has 30 x 3 or 4 to download and mark for just one subject and we are looking to set at least three subjects a day. I am sure you can see that this very quickly becomes unmanageable for the teacher resulting in her spending huge amounts of time downloading work before she can mark it. I do appreciate this might not be possible, but if there is a way of uploading just one document per subject/ task rather than several this would help the teachers to keep on top of what is being asked. You may also notice that as the teachers deliver more and more live or recorded lessons they may struggle to keep on top of the marking.

We aim that all work will receive an acknowledgement by a member of staff but this may not be by your child's usual class teacher and it may not be as detailed as that which normally takes place in school or has done previously when the home learning focus was different. Some work, often maths, will need to be self-marked by the child (answer sheets and instructions will be provided via eSchools). Teachers will look at as much of this work as they can, but it would be helpful if you could message the teacher on eSchools if there are any specific issues or difficulties that your child needs help with.

Please upload completed work within 24 hours of it being set.

Please bear with us next week in particular as we adapt to this new way of working and establish manageable systems moving forward.

Thank you once again for your support at this somewhat challenging time. We very much hope that over the next few weeks, life will become calmer and more straightforward for all concerned.

Kind regards
Mrs Rosie Phillips
Headteacher