



St Nicholas' Nursery & Preparatory School

Est: 1937

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2 January 2021

Re: Remote Learning provision - January 2021

Dear Parents

I write to outline our plans for the online learning provision in the upcoming Spring Term. Outlined below are a number of measures and considerations detailing how we will continue to deliver educational provision to the pupils. Many of these are a continuation of the excellent framework we implemented in 2020, and so the arrangements will look very familiar for the children. As such, we are very confident that we can maintain their learning during this short closure.

As before, we will be open to children of key workers, and so if you believe you qualify for this, I please ask that you complete the accompanying Key Worker Form by midday on Monday 4th January so that we are able to put suitable supervision in place.

Key worker children will be permitted into the school from 0800 onwards, and we will offer free after school provision until 1630 so that members of the community can avoid travelling during busy times.

Thanks to our efforts to develop a modern curriculum, we are well prepared for maintaining our educational provision in the event of the school needing to close, where we will deliver lessons remotely to pupils.

- Most children will have taken their iPads home with them in December in anticipation of a potential closure. Similarly, they should already be logged into the relevant apps, but if there are any issues, please inform your child's class teacher as we have a bank of each child's password and will be able to guide you through logins. As per previous correspondence, it is therefore important that no other logins are used on the device so as to avoid confusion impacting on learning.
- For new pupils joining the school in January, for Reception children, and for any child who left their device at school over the holidays, parents are asked to come to collect the device from School on Monday 4th January between 1400 and 1500 please. If you are a key worker and your child will be coming into school on Tuesday, you do not need to come to collect the device. Please do not pull up on Salmon Street when coming to collect your child's device.
- We ask that if you do not have an Apple charger, please purchase one so that you can maintain involvement in the curriculum. Likewise, children's keyboards use a USB to micro-USB charger, and so this will also be useful - it is prudent to charge these regularly as well as once the charge runs out, they take some time to charge again.

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- Pupils should be dressed in full uniform for their lessons and throughout the day, aside from their Sport Science lessons when they may change into activewear for the afternoon.
- We have attached an outline timetable to ensure that the breadth of the curriculum continues to be offered. We will endeavour to follow this to provide continuity and routine for the pupils.
- Staff will deliver input on each task via the 'Zoom' video conferencing app. Children will need to log into Zoom at the start of each lesson, and wait to be invited by the teacher. Please remind children that they do not need to call the teacher themselves – staff inviting pupils provides us with a more secure environment for teaching. These sessions will last approximately 15 minutes, more for older pupils, allowing them to have access to the required guidance to complete the timetabled task. Zoom allows for file sharing and annotation so children can continue to have full input from staff to complete activities.
- Using video conferencing software comes with added safeguarding considerations. As such, we have reviewed and attached a number of documents to ensure our provision maintains safety for pupils and staff. *Please ensure you have read the updated Online Learning Permission Letter to remind yourself and your child of our expectations.*
- Our normal expectations apply for conduct in lessons even when delivered remotely. Children should therefore not be eating snacks, playing with toys, have tv or other distractions on, and should aim to engage fully with both the video call and the independent work.
- Staff will offer feedback electronically, but it is important that children submit their work on time so that teachers can manage this aspect of work and plan upcoming lessons accordingly.

We recognise that the circumstances for working at home are different to at school, and that families have other commitments to younger and older family members. As such, the work set for children will factor this into account. Each day will end with a final review conference call at 1515 where teachers can offer feedback on the work that has been completed and can monitor understanding.

- In lessons, children will complete a variety of activities. Some of these may be via specific apps such as Mathletics, Book Creator or Spark Pages, and others through normal document or slide based applications, as well as pencil and paper methods to balance screen time.
- Guidance on each activity will be accessed by pupils using Google Classroom (for KS2 pupils) or Seesaw (throughout from Reception to Y6). Children will undertake work, and then upload their completed activities back to the Classroom or Seesaw app. We will also aim to maintain a balance between screen time and written work, and so in some instances, we may ask pupils to take photos of their work, or record videos of presentations that they give.
- Staff will provide feedback on completed work either through annotation or comments, or via a future video link.
- Our teachers will be available to address queries during lesson time. Children should send a message to their teacher directly rather than an open question to the class chat forum on Zoom.

As last time, we will be continuing additional measures aimed at maintaining familiarity for the children to normal school life;

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- Teachers will still award incentives as per our Rewards and Sanctions Policy, for example House Points via Class Dojo, and Headteacher Awards.
- We continue to place high value on the benefit of meditation and quiet time for children in this circumstance. Whilst closure this time doesn't perhaps have the same level of surprise to it, adapting to these temporary circumstances is difficult. As such, children will again be invited to reflect and meditate three times a week, and we ask parents to encourage children to engage with the sessions as fully as they can. These will take place in the 1515 video sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to support each child's emotional well-being. We highly recommend the 'Calm' app as discussed before which, although requiring a registration, can still be accessed for free and has been used on many occasions at school. Similarly, the 'GoNoodle' App has a section titled 'Flow' for younger children which is also useful.

If you have any issues accessing particular apps, please e mail Mr Donaldson to outline problems, and we will aim to resolve matters as swiftly as possible to maintain provision.

We appreciate your ongoing support on the matter. As always, we will continue to communicate with you transparently and regularly, and likewise invite any further questions should they arise. We are well prepared for this situation, and the children coped fantastically last time, so we look forward to maintaining our high academic standards in the next two weeks, and likewise to welcoming children back to school very soon.

Kind regards

Mr M. Donaldson
Headteacher

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