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Tuesday 26th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update from Will – School, Remote Learning & Survey

This update letter was due to go out to you towards the end of last week, however, as seems usual in these current times, unexpected school issues arose that required addressing first before sending this communication to you.

What a challenging start to the new year it has been. This new winter lockdown is taking its toll on all of us as we struggle even more on the 'black ice' of uncertainty as no-one can say when schools in England are going to re-open for most pupils again. We fully recognise that 'home schooling' is tough and the sense of fatigue families must be feeling. The majority of our staff are parents of school age children ourselves as well, and like you are trying to balance work and family life at considerable personal strain.

In spite of all this, you and your children deserve immense credit: for the efforts you have made to support your child's remote learning and the manner in which you have responded.

The last couple of weeks have provided huge challenges in trying to put in place the best remote learning provision we can, such as technological and hardware issues and teachers working flat out to improve and develop their skill and practice with the new 'Google Classroom' remote learning tool. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding, as well as the many supportive emails we have received expressing your thanks. Nevertheless we know that we are not where we want to be yet. We have been behind some other schools in remote learning provision but we are swiftly catching up. I hope you will have seen some of the improvements over the last week or so. We are moving to more 'live meets', putting up more teaching 'input' (whether 'live' or recorded), putting up a more structured class timetable and so on. There is more we are actively considering to further develop, such as possible registration 'meets' and the need for recorded or live SLT assemblies.

Shared understanding is important to ensure clear expectations and avoid confusion so Liz Luka, our Remote Learning overall leader has asked me to share some key points to support this:

- **Access Issues and Submitting of Work**
Please do refer to the guidance provided on the website. We are looking into some of the technical issues parents (& teachers) are facing currently with this: <https://boundsgreenschool.co.uk/google-classrooms-tutorial-video-2/>
- **Remember to Use the 'Blue Book' for off-line work**
- **'Live' Sessions**
As mentioned above you should see an increase in the amount of 'live' Google meets, as well as quality and quantity of input.
- **Teacher Response to Work submitted**
Please bear in mind that teachers will not be able to respond to work when they are required to be in school to support on-site supervision of Critical Worker/vulnerable children, or whilst they are on their statutory Planning, Preparation & Assessment time. They will publish this on their weekly timetable.
To manage their own workload & work life balance teachers will be setting a deadline for submission of work. It is important to understand that for work submitted after it will not be possible for it to be 'marked' or responded to.
- **Key Worker Children at School**
Due to lack of hardware and computer access issues at school KW children will mostly be doing their work offline. The work is done in their blue book in school. For those days when a KW child might be at home, they should only

complete the online work for those days in order that they themselves have balance. They should refer to the class timetable

- **Other Year Group Teachers posting Work, Links or Videos**

As our teachers work in Year group teams to share thinking, planning and workload, you will notice posting of things by other members of the team. This is because the learning is the same and maximises impact and avoids doubling of workload.

- **Google Meets**

Please note that children can only be admitted to the Google Meets using the child's login details. Any other username will not be admitted for security reasons.

Spanish Remote Learning Update

I need to inform you that we have needed to make the decision to suspend temporarily the remote learning for Spanish that Sylvia Laguna would have provided until half term. The School has needed to re-deploy Sylvia to cover remote learning for Covent Garden class for this period during Dom Miller's leave of absence.

Remote Learning Survey

As mentioned earlier we are trying to improve the quality of our remote learning. Your feedback will support us in doing so. Please could you take a few moments to complete the following survey to help us:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B7gYeyQdhkyE6s2kn-shZOVGWUbusfRJuGS5Bs_uOW1URU5RN0pJRU1MMFVWUzRKMTk4VFFOUBEMi4u

Safeguarding children online

Protecting our children when online is very important. I wanted to inform you about where parents can go to find out more about protecting their children. The website is called Protect Young Eyes. You can find out information about apps that your children may wish to use. It will review the most popular social media apps used by children today. It will give you all the information about them, including what age the children should be to use them and tell you what you need to know, such as whether the app has easy accessibility, to inappropriate content, does it have direct messaging facilities and if it is safe for young children to use.

There is also a section on how to put parental controls on every digital device. It will provide you with step-by-step instructions for setting up every kind of digital device to ensure that it has the controls on to keep your child safe.

Website <https://protectyouneyes.com/>

For information on apps <https://protectyouneyes.com/apps/>

For information on parental controls <https://protectyouneyes.com/parental-controls-every-digital-device/>

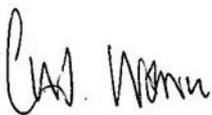
Finally

There is emotional and mental strain on all of us at the moment but what typifies our whole school community is its collective resilience and mutual support. A piece of advice from me during these shorter days is for all of you to take a break in daylight hours and get outside. We will get through this difficult time, together. My wife (a Headteacher herself) said to me last night in her own moment of strain:

"I can't go on like this...where the only people I see are this family and these 4 walls...it's like living in an eternal episode of The Waltons!" (most of you are probably too young to remember, fortunately).

We will be back together, not remotely, soon. Let's hold on to that.

Yours sincerely



Will Wawn
Head Teacher