



20th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Spring Information Letter 7 – Home Learning

Firstly, well done to the pupils for all of the wonderful work that has been completed and posted on Seesaw. Last week, I wrote to you regarding the DFE recommendations for home learning and some of our own FAQs. A reminder of these can be found at the end of this letter.

Pupil Engagement

The staff will be posting one English and one Maths lesson per day, plus the other lessons following their usual timetable (topic lessons, PE, art etc. for the afternoons). We know that there will be times when getting online is difficult or motivation is lacking but please try and complete the daily English and Maths as a minimum.

Every week I have contacted parents of pupils who have not engaged, in order to check all is well.

In addition, I will now be monitoring the completion of the English and Maths lessons.

Enhancements to our Remote Learning

We are taking part in weekly staff training to continue to enhance the remote learning experiences of our pupils. This evening the use of Teams was covered. We are looking forward to organising class sessions soon, however there are a few technical steps that need to be taken first, prior to a launch date. Further details to follow.

Many thanks for the positive feedback regarding teacher voice-overs and video clips. The staff will continue to offer these on Seesaw as part of our remote learning package.

Get Help with Technology Scheme

As a school, we have been allocated four fully funded devices by the DFE. I have ordered these and they should arrive in school soon. If you or someone you know, does not have access to a laptop or tablet in their home, please get in touch via office@nortonprimary.worcs.sch.uk.

Home Learning Packs

If your child's class teacher has provided you with a paper pack for home learning please ensure that the completed work is sent back to school for them to mark. Giving pupils' feedback is a critical step in the learning process.

School Council and Eco-Committee

If your child is part of the School Council or the Eco-Committee, you will have had a letter inviting them to join the Seesaw classroom with a separate Seesaw code. Can you encourage your child to log on and have a look at what has been posted so far please.

New messages and tasks for these two committees will be uploaded on Wednesdays.



Key Worker Pupils

Please note the guidance for schools states that parents should only send pupils into school if necessary. Your child does not have to attend daily so if you are not at work please do not send them to school. For the safety of the whole school community, fewer pupils on site will minimise the risk of the transmission of COVID.

A reminder too that all pupils attending school must be escorted onto the school site by a parent and not dropped off at the gates. This is a requirement so that all family groups are 2m away from others. Please ensure your child walks with you around the one-way system.

FAQs from Newsletter 6

The DFE sent a link to schools for parents covering some FAQs regarding remote education. Here are some of the questions answered:

What can I expect remote education to look like?

Schools will be expected to continue remote education until February half term at the earliest. We will continue to support schools and teachers as they use new technology and teaching methods to ensure children are able to stay motivated and engaged with their learning whilst outside the classroom.

When being taught remotely, your child's school is expected to set meaningful and ambitious work each day in several different subjects. Schools are expected to provide as a minimum:

- 3 hours a day for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2 when pupils are aged between 5 and 7)
- 4 hours a day for KS2 (years 3 - 6 when children are aged between 7 and 11)

Those hours include both direct teaching and time for pupils to complete tasks or assignments independently.

Our family does not have access to a laptop and/or the internet; can my child still learn remotely?

Yes – we are continuing to work with teachers and staff to ensure schools and colleges are able to overcome barriers of digital access. Schools and colleges may also provide their own laptops, or consider different forms of remote education such as printed resources or textbooks, supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils and students on track or answer questions about work.

Will my child's school provide us with a laptop for my child's remote learning needs?

Schools across the country are allocated a certain number of laptops based on need – the allocation is intended to enable the school to support disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not already have access to a device.



Schools can order laptops through our service on GOV.UK, and are then responsible for lending them to children to enable them to learn remotely. Parents and carers should talk to their child's school about the remote learning they are offering. NJK is in the process of applying for these devices.

What else is the department doing to help my child catch up on the education they may have missed during the pandemic?

[In June 2020 the Prime Minister and Education Secretary announced a £1bn catch-up package](#) to directly tackle the impact of lost teaching time on children in England. The package includes the catch-up premium, a one of grant (£650m) which will be shared across state primary and secondary schools over the 2020/21 academic year. We used some of this catch-up funding last term to boost the pupils' progress. We will do the same on return to school.

Following a staff meeting this evening, the NJK team have also come up with some FAQs regarding remote learning:

If my child has missed a day, should I carry straight on with the next day's lesson?

No, please look back at what was set the day before as the lessons planned are sequential. You do not have to complete the missing day's work but just ensure that you and your child are aware of any necessary information or resources needed to complete the next task.

I am finding that there is too much work-what should I do?

Focus on completing the Maths and English each day. If there is a project or 'make and do' activity that is too time-consuming just share the accompanying PowerPoint or background information with your child. Some of the projects might be good to complete as a family at the weekend.

I am a key worker so my child attends school-what should I do regarding remote education?

Your child will complete the tasks set on line for the days they attend school. If they are at home, please log onto Seesaw and complete the tasks for that day.

My child has been assigned some worship activities -Do they have to complete these?

As a church school, we are keen to offer collective worship that can be enjoyed at home, as we would have done at school. These are optional and/or could be viewed at another time that is more convenient.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves.

Kind regards

Mrs J Dean
Headteacher