



The Laurels
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Charlotte Bull

7th January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

As you may be aware, schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning.

Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that a strategy of live-streaming lessons will work best for the children at The Laurels while we have the staffing to maintain it.

What you can do to help

We appreciate learning from home may present some challenges for you. Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning.

We want to reassure you that there is **no** expectation for parents/carers to act as teachers and get directly involved in the work set. In fact, we **want** to see work which has been completed without any help so we can identify what your child knows and can do – this is how we plan our next lessons and prevent gaps in learning.

If parents can encourage their child to engage with the work and provide them with a space to complete it, they are doing a **great job!**

At the same time, we don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they have learned.

We politely ask parents and siblings **not** to comment in the Google Classrooms as it is intended to mimic the real classroom and enable children to interact with the teacher and their friends in a relaxed and safe environment as they would if they were at school.

First and foremost, it is important to remember that all of our children are unique, special and brilliant and they all learn at different speeds and we should try to come from a place of empathy. People may not talk much about the virus or how the pandemic is affecting their lives but they are feeling it.

What we expect from your child

It is important that your child engages with home learning at 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.00pm and keeps to their timetable.

If they aren't engaging with the learning, we will call you to provide additional support.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable. You could create a visual timetable or use a chalkboard to track what's happening.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active. Breaks are really important so be sure to build those in and break learning into smaller chunks.
- Instead of saying "good job," try giving specific details about your child's work. If they tried hard, let them know you noticed. Have they made progress? Used a new technique? In what ways are their efforts kind, clever, beautiful, or insightful?

Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact senior leaders through the school office. Any technical or password queries can be sent to itservices@dmf.education

We will be pausing the use of Tapestry during this period of home learning and request all communication is through Google Classroom assignments. If you choose to add photos to your work, we would be grateful if they are photos of the work and limited to two per assignment to reduce pressures on staff at this difficult time.

Mrs Collins is going to run a Google Classroom training session for parents next Monday 11th January at 6.00pm where she will talk you through the basics of Google Classroom and how we use it at The Laurels. This session will be recorded and uploaded to the school website following the meeting. If you have any questions you would like answered, please email them to the school before Monday 1.00pm and Mrs Collins will be glad to answer those for you. A link will be sent out on Monday if you would like to attend. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible.

We will look to gain parent feedback on the live teaching shortly.

Thank you for your continued support and all your positive feedback so far!

Yours sincerely



Miss C Bull
Headteacher