



Children are at the centre of everything we do

Friday 29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Remote Learning/Covid-19 Update**

Since I last wrote to you on 22 January, we have had snow – (I know the children in school thoroughly enjoyed this and hope that those learning at home did too), a power cut and the Government announcement that schools will not be re-opening before **8 March at the earliest**. We really hope that all children will be able to return to school on 8 March but we shall have to wait and see.

We all understand that these continue to be difficult times for everyone and that it is vital we all support each other in getting through it!

### Remote Learning Policy/Remote Learning Offer

Our revised Remote Learning Policy and Greenway's Remote Learning Offer (set out within a template from the Department for Education) have been ratified by the Governing Body and were uploaded onto our school website on Monday. Both these documents can be found when you click on the Remote Learning tab on the Home page of the Greenway school website. Please do take time to look at these documents, as they should support your understanding of what we are offering by way of remote learning and why – the Offer document effectively summarises what is in the Policy.

### Remote Learning/Google Classrooms

Thank you for all you continue to do in supporting your child/ren with their home learning. We do appreciate that the prospect of several more weeks of remote learning is challenging for so many families and are grateful for all that you are doing.

I plan to hold a virtual Parent Forum meeting on Thursday 4 February at 8pm and I know your Parent Forum representative will be emailing you for your feedback around how you are finding remote learning during this lockdown. The main focus of the meeting will be to discuss our Remote Learning Policy and Offer documents and the remote learning offer from Greenway. Many of you have already fed back to me and my staff positively about our offer and this has been really useful.

I will be reviewing our remote learning offer with my Senior Leadership Team, Governing Body and the school's Improvement Partner later in the term and it will be helpful to have Parent Forum feedback for this.

### General Reminders

1. As per the advice previously given, I have set out below **how to access the comments of your child's teacher when you have submitted a photograph of your child's work** as this still appears to be problematic for some of you:

*'To view this comment, you need to open the document in a new window. To do this, you need to select the photograph of the work, click on the icon on the right hand side of the page with three dots, click 'open in a new window' and then hover over the work. The teacher's comment will pop up. Once you have seen the comment, you **do not** need to resubmit the piece of work. This will be the consistent approach from all class teachers..... We have been made aware that when trying to view your child's comments you cannot view them when using certain phones and tablets'.*

The teachers are spending a lot of their time marking, commenting and acknowledging the work you are submitting on behalf of your child.

- There will be occasions when answers will be provided by the teacher so the children (and you) can self-mark the piece of work. In such circumstances, please ensure that the self marked work is submitted to your child's teacher for them to then note how your child has done.
- However, there will be other occasions when work is to be **marked by the teacher only**. In such circumstances may I politely request that you do not mark your children's work. I know that my staff are very clear on what they are expecting from your child and they will mark a piece of work against the learning objectives set and provide feedback accordingly – this is their professional role.
- I have previously explained why we have set a deadline for 3pm to submit your child's work. Some parents have already liaised with their child's class teacher about this and have communicated their individual circumstances and in a few cases alternative arrangements have been made. However, the vast majority of families are working within the parameters set by the school for which my staff and I are very grateful – thank you.

I can only reiterate that there is no need to worry if you miss the 3pm deadline as we understand that things happen, and circumstances may make this unfeasible. However, if this does happen please do not expect work to be marked and for feedback to be given by the next day. You will appreciate and understand that my staff have their own personal circumstances/family commitments, hence why the 3pm deadline was put in place to allow time for quality marking and feedback to take place along with planning and uploading work for the following day by 6pm.

2. I thought I should clarify the purpose of the 'Class Meet and Greet' sessions, as there appears to be some confusion. This is **not** a teaching session. The

objectives of these sessions are for staff to provide through a remote face to face 'real time' interaction,

- support for your child's well-being,
  - an opportunity for social interaction,
  - celebrate achievements/birthdays; and
  - talk through the week's work and expectations.
3. You will have seen within the remote learning uploaded to Google Classroom that teachers are now providing some pre-recorded video clips and some PowerPoints with audio commentary that they have recorded. Teachers are deciding when to use these items to support their individual class learning so you will find that each class has different offers. Thank you for the positive feedback to date - having seen the children at school responding to these items, I know how much they are appreciated.
4. **Please may I repeat that if you have a concern or query regarding your child, please email your child's class teacher via their school email and not through Google Classroom** as we want to ensure that your query is not lost in all the notifications received by teachers from Google Classrooms each day.

#### Testing of staff in Primary schools

You may well be aware from the news that all staff in school will now be undertaking tests twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Device kit at home. The aim of using these tests is to identify those members of staff who could be carrying the virus without knowing it. A positive or negative result is shown within 30mins of taking the test. All staff have now been trained to use these tests and staff will begin their testing next week in the morning before coming into work.

If a member of staff tests positive, then I will be required to close the bubble that the member of staff works in until that member of staff takes a further COVID test. If this comes back positive then the bubble and all the staff who work within that bubble will need to self-isolate for 10 days. If the COVID test comes back negative then the bubble will re-open.

Please be aware that I will be communicating via the texting to parents' service if there is a positive test result and a bubble has to close. As the service only allows us to text one parent, you may want to ensure you are clear as to which parent is receiving the text!

I hope that you all have an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

**Katharine Ellwood**  
**Headteacher**