



Wivelsfield Primary School
South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN
Telephone: 01444 471393
office@wivelsfield.e-sussex.sch.uk
www.wivelsfield.org
Headteacher: Mrs H Smith BA Hons NPQH

6th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first few days of 2021 have certainly been memorable. Having spent the last couple of days sorting provision and staffing for our 'priority children' and ensuring remote learning has been sent out, we are now in a position to give you more information regarding the next few weeks.

Remote Learning Provision

We have more 'Priority Children' in school than we anticipated. This means, except for Years 5 and 6, all children being taught in their discrete classes. This has been done to ensure numbers in classes are as small as possible, thus reducing the risk of transmission of Covid 19. However, it does mean all teachers have to be in school every day. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the amount of time teachers can engage with children learning at home, but we anticipate they will be able to dedicate time to this in the afternoons, when teaching assistants will take responsibility for children in school.

Video Recordings instead of online/live lessons

The teachers have worked tirelessly, as well as being in school all week with critical worker and vulnerable children, to begin re-planning and adapting all of their resources prepared for this week (and indeed the term), with the introduction of video recordings to support the learning. The Governors advised that teachers would have uploaded learning onto Google Classroom by Tuesday afternoon and we are pleased that as well as teaching, all teachers were successfully able to deliver upon this ahead of time.

We understand many of you are keen for teachers to engage in live streaming of lessons. This will not be happening for the logistical and safeguarding reasons outlined below:

- For example, scheduling in live lessons may be problematic for families who might only have one tablet or computer which parents might be using for their own work and/or more than one child to cater for.
- Wivelsfield School does not have the technology to record 'live' teaching from the classroom and furthermore this is not appropriate for safeguarding reasons with the children which we have in the classroom. When teachers are teaching, they are not constantly 'presenting' to the class: there is a mix of helping children, answering questions, picking up on errors and misconceptions, modelling and so on. This means two adults are required for live streaming –



one to teach and one to manage the wider virtual classroom environment. There is not the staff capacity for this.

- For Safeguarding, 'live lessons' also require the presence of an adult at home, which again is something that we did not feel would be possible or practical for all of our families in the school community with other children and work commitments.

However, to improve the quality of our online learning, teachers are recording over their PowerPoints/lessons where this is appropriate and will benefit learning. However, with teachers in school so much with children, there is a limit to how much of this can be done. One benefit of recorded lessons over live streaming is they can be accessed at any time that suits your family's needs.

As last year, we will be using White Rose mathematics lessons and resources as the basis of our mathematics provision. This is the long term plan we follow at Wivelsfield School. We will also use the Oak Academy lessons and other resources for some foundation subjects, but plan to deliver more bespoke lessons for much of our English teaching. Provision for Robins class is a little different.

We are continually working to improve the provision, but understand that however best we try to cater for everyone, there may always be some aspects which might not suffice for all individual circumstances.

Laptops and other hardware

We have applied to the DfE for laptops that can be used by families for home learning, and we also have a limited number in school that we can loan out. Mrs Milton has contacted the whole school community asking you to contact the office if you need one at home to enable your child to engage in online learning. Please look out for this. If we need to prioritise, the criteria will be:

- Families in receipt of pupil premium, who are not attending school.
- Children on the SEND register, who are not attending school.
- Families with more than one child, who are not attending school.
- Other children who are not attending school any days of the week.

For now, some families who do not have computer access have requested work to be printed off. If you are a family who has requested this, either the class teacher or the school office will let you know when the work is available for you ready in the foyer.

Other Equipment

In the foyer, we have paper books, pens, pencils and stationery that you can collect (adhering to social distancing) at your convenience. Children can write their answers in their books to save on printing.

We are not expecting parents to print off huge quantities of resources in colour, as writing in a book or a piece of paper to answer questions or complete the work is perfectly acceptable.

Reading Books

By the end of the week we will let you know of arrangements to change reading books.



Safeguarding and well-being of children

We are committed to the safety of wellbeing of your children during this time of school closure, including their mental and emotional health. If you have any concerns about any child, you can contact the school in the usual way: 01444 471393.

Out of school hours, if you have any urgent concerns please call:

- SPOA 01323 464222 (families living in East Sussex)
- MASH 01403 229900 (families living in West Sussex)

It is possible your child may be spending more time online. To keep them safe, please ensure all devices have appropriate parental controls in place and if you need any further advice there are some links on our website safeguarding page.

The NSPCC has a wealth of advice: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Staff Absence

Should we suffer significant staff absence, it may be necessary to reduce the number of children we have in school. Should this happen, priority will be given to vulnerable children and children where there are two critical workers or one NHS frontline worker.

However much you want your child to progress with their learning at home, in the way they would at school, please do not try to replicate the school day. Please be kind and patient to your children and yourselves: most of you are not trained teachers and may be juggling work commitments and/or trying to manage home learning for several children, with only one computer or tablet. Children may also be less willing to engage with learning at home, especially after the first week or two, and as many of us know, long periods spent in front of a screen can be intense and tiring. The weekly overview sent out by class teachers is just a suggestion for timings, but please aim for about 3 hours of learning each day. School is not just about academic learning, it is also about developing social skills and friendships; at school, children are not taking part in academic learning for 6 hours each day.

We all hope that schools will be fully open again after the February break. Unbelievably, this will be almost a year from the first lockdown. Maybe we will be able to celebrate World Book Day with fancy dress in our usual way!

We will keep you updated on any news as we hear it, but in the meantime, keep safe and well.

Kind regards,

Helen M. Smith

Helen Smith
Headteacher

Amy Meade

Ms Amy Meade
Deputy Headteacher (Acting)
English Lead
SLE - Specialist Leader of Education - English
Year 5 Badgers Class Teacher Wed-Fri

