



Newton Burgoland Primary School



School Lane, Newton Burgoland, Leicestershire LE67 2SL. Telephone: 01530 270320

Email: admin@newburland.leics.sch.uk and Website: www.newburland.leics.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs. Sue Ward B.Ed. (Hons) M.A.

Together We Can Achieve Excellence

Whole School Update including Remote Learning and TEAMS 27/1/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your messages of support last week. I can confirm that the member of staff who tested positive is recovering well. The events of last week reinforced the importance of acting swiftly to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and following government guidelines.

This week we intended to make phone calls to key stage 2 pupils on Monday, but given the advice of the emergency services not to travel, I asked school staff to work from home. For data protection reasons, teachers do not have access to parent details at home so phone calls were made yesterday and today instead. Thank you for your understanding. We will make follow up calls to any parents who were not available.

I am looking forward to the day when we return to school as normal but until then I want to reassure you that we know you are all doing your very best to juggle work, remote learning and the uncertainty of living through a pandemic. The news that over 100,000 people have now died of Covid-19 is a reminder to us all of how precious life is and that we have no choice but to persevere.

One of the first challenges we all faced was to establish a routine for learning and sharing learning. Below is a reminder of how each class is communicating with you about the work set each week.

Class 1:

General and weekly information about learning at home

<https://www.newburland.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+at+Home&pid=152>

Further information and resources are available under the subject tabs

Class 2:

General Information about learning at home:

<https://www.newburland.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+at+home+Covid%2D19&pid=163>

Specific information for each week can be found on the tabs labelled by week.

Class 3:

General and weekly information about learning at home

<https://www.newburland.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+at+Home&pid=155>

Weekly timetables and all resources can be found on this page. The subject tabs give further ideas for learning at home. The weekly timetables are uploaded in order with resources below.

Class 4:

General and weekly information about learning at home

<https://www.newburland.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Covid%2D19+closure%2Fself+isolation+information&pid=225>

Weekly timetables and all resources can be found on this page. The subject tabs give further ideas for learning at home. The weekly timetables are uploaded in order with resources below.

As a first point of call if you cannot find something, please ask other families so we can concentrate on supporting the pupils in school, phoning those at home (fortnightly), planning learning and feeding back on completed work. If your child is usually in school you will not be receiving a regular phone call.

Where we feel additional printed material would be helpful, a change of reading book or provision of other resources is needed we will contact you to arrange a safe collection time. If you feel that you need something to support learning at home do ask.

Please do your very best to follow the learning plans so that we are all in the same place when we return.

Should you need to contact a member of staff may I ask that your tone is respectful and polite. My staff are amazing, they are working incredibly hard in very stressful circumstances. As we saw last week, every member of staff is putting themselves and their families at risk of infection every day. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team. We are here to help and support you, if you just need someone to talk to then I am available, just call and I will listen.

Microsoft Teams- update

The element of remote learning we would most like to move forward is that of connection, collaboration and communication through Microsoft Teams. Our first attempt at this created some difficulties which we expect to be resolved with the attached home school agreement for the use of Microsoft Teams. This needs to be signed and returned by Monday 1/2/21- an email, response to this letter will suffice – admin@newburland.leics.sch.uk

Note: Should the agreement not be respected the pupil concerned will be removed from the TEAMS account.

All teaching staff will shortly be trained in the use of teams next week as a tool to enhance learning. Mrs Lupion is looking forward to being able to read a class story through TEAMS as are Mrs. Waddell and Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Elliott is looking forward to sharing some quizzes using TEAMS, and Mrs. Underwood is looking forward to seeing some of her class for the first time.

Class teachers will be making age appropriate decisions on the use of Microsoft Teams for their classes, following training. Direct messages between pupils and staff are not encouraged. There may be occasions when teachers ask pupils to upload their work or ideas to collaborate with others. If you would prefer not to, please continue to send your child's work to the teacher via email.

We are anticipating that Microsoft TEAMS will provide some exciting learning opportunities for us all not just during Lockdown but going forward as a homework and collaboration tool.

Live Teaching

A few parents have queried my decision not to use live teaching. Firstly, this is for safeguarding and well-being reasons to protect both pupils and staff. Secondly, it is not possible to replicate high quality whole class classroom teaching and meet the needs of all pupils. It would be detrimental to the learning and well-being of pupils to try to do so. In the classroom we are able to see and quietly talk to a child who is distracted or struggling; we can make judgements about learning and next steps for individuals based on the work children are producing; we can ask pupils to talk together and explain their thinking; we can pull a group together and work with them - none of these aspects of class teaching can be replicated remotely.

Oak Academy spent a long time creating well structured, high quality lessons which support pupils to learn key information and practice key skills. We have selected lessons carefully to meet the needs of your child and to build on the curriculum we have already taught. In the autumn term class 3 and 4 teachers spent time familiarising pupils with the format and the expectations so that all of our key stage 2 pupils could work independently to support those of you working at home. In addition, they can be accessed at the pace which feels most comfortable to your child and they provide equality of access to the curriculum we would be teaching in school. Pupils in school are accessing the same lessons.

Whilst some schools are using elements of Live teaching many are not for the reasons above – all children are different, all teachers are different, all schools are different – please try to understand and respect the decision we have made.

Kind Regards,

Sue Ward
Headteacher