

QUEEN'S CRESCENT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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28th January 2020

Term 3 - 7th January - 12th February

Newsletter No.8 (2019/20)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that this newsletter finds you well during what is undoubtedly a difficult time for everyone in our school community. Since the beginning of this most recent lockdown, the staff have really enjoyed seeing the fantastic learning that the children are doing at home and feeding back to us through Teams and Seesaw. They have also really enjoyed using Teams to meet daily with their classes, which has provided another level of connection during this period of partial school closure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the fantastic job that you are doing at home in supporting your children with their learning. The DFE have asked all schools to provide a set amount of learning per day for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 so that is what we, as a school, have set out to provide. That said, the message remains the same as always, please just do what you can, especially in the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in currently.

Remote Learning

This week, staff in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will continue to use Teams to provide pre-recorded and live sessions for the children across the school and will be evolving the use of Teams to include assignments (please note some classes have already been trialling assignments). The assignments will be tailored to match the age of the children and may be in the form of a mini quiz or set as a larger assignment with worksheets to download or fill in. Your child's class teacher will talk through how to complete the assignment during the morning registration on the day that the assignment is scheduled. Setting the learning in this way will allow the teachers to make really accurate assessments around the children's understanding and help them to give incisive feedback and tailor intervention. Please continue to upload examples of the other learning your children are completing at home to Seesaw.

The staff and children in FS2 will continue to use Teams for the live elements of remote learning and Seesaw for sharing other learning opportunities.

Technology

Over the last 2 weeks we have been making technology available to families with little or no technology available for supporting with remote learning. If you are still in a position where by you are struggling to access the remote learning offer for this reason please contact the school office and we will be pleased to see how we may be able to support further. Please let us know if you do not have enough technology available as well, as we are now in a position to offer additional technology to families who may have more than one child and not enough technology. We will need to look at each request on a case by case basis and prioritise those families where the need is greatest.



Key Worker Bubbles

The school continues to remain open to the children of Critical Workers and to vulnerable children. The number of children attending has slowly but steadily been increasing and we are now at or close to capacity on most days. Before contacting the school to ask for a place, we ask that you first consider whether you are able to safely keep your child at home. We understand that this may be difficult but our priority has to be the safety of those still accessing the school site. A huge thank you for your help with this request in advance.

Lateral Flow Testing

This week lateral flow testing has been introduced for primary schools across the country. The testing is for school staff only and is being rolled out on an optional basis. Staff that opt in will test twice a week using a lateral flow test, receiving the result 30 minutes after self-administering the test. The tests have been introduced to detect asymptomatic individuals that may be unknowingly carrying the virus. In the event of a positive test, we will work closely with Public Health England to conduct a thorough risk assessment and follow their advice and guidance. Lateral flow testing is an additional measure put in place to try and break the chain of transmissions and ensure the safety of everyone on the school site - it will not replace any other elements of our risk assessment.

Webinars for parents

Pickwick Academy Trust have teamed up with Nicola Pearson, who runs "Minds of Wonder" to provide a series of short webinars for parents and carers. The first of the webinars is called "Resilience for Learning and Well-being", and will last approximately 45 minutes followed by Q&A session. For further information on this series of webinars please see the letter sent to all parents on Thursday 21 January.

Nicola Pearson has also teamed up with Steph Campbell, a local secondary school teacher and a Queen's Crescent parent, to deliver an online workshop for parents on how to encourage growth mindset in their children, as well as considering their own mindset. The workshop is an interactive hour long session to be held on Saturday 13th February. To sign up for the workshop click on the following link [How to Develop a Growth Mindset in Children](#).

Initial Teacher Training

At our school we recognise that part of our role is in training the teachers of the future and so are very proud to say that we work with Pickwick Learning to provide a school-centred training route into teaching. Our school is one of a growing number of partnership schools working with Pickwick to provide placements for trainee teachers in 2021-2022.

If you would like to train to become a teacher and would like to do so through Pickwick Learning, please use their [website](#) to find out all about our School Direct programme.

To be eligible you will need a degree and English, Maths and Science GCSEs at grade C (level 4) or above.

Find: <https://find-postgraduate-teacher-training.education.gov.uk/>

Apply: <https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate>

For more information on Initial Teacher Training (ITT) please visit the Pickwick Learning website www.pltsa.co.uk/school-direct-itt, come along to a Pickwick Introduction Meet and Greet sessions or contact:

Amy Tapscott (Director, Pickwick Learning and School Direct PGCE ITT Lead):
e: atapscott@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk t: 01249 712387



James Essam
Head of School



The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub
For people in need of support
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#WiltshireTogether
Wiltshire Council

Remote learning

TOP TEN TIPS for parents

The government has set out its expectations for schools to provide remote education during this current lockdown so that pupils other than children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils can continue learning at home. These are challenging times for everyone – teachers, parents, carers and pupils. We've set out some helpful advice for parents on what to expect with remote learning and how you can support your child at home.

1. MANAGING EXPECTATION

Schools will have different approaches to remote learning but all schools will be doing their best to provide a range of teaching methods while also still teaching those pupils going into school. Not all remote learning will be face to face, time with their teachers and schools will provide a blended approach that will evolve and develop over time.

4. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH SCHOOL AND TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent and only use official channels to communicate whether that be through the school's online portal or other secure messaging site.

7. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINES

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting, that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom, might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.

10. MONITOR WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

2. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.

5. ENSURE LEARNING DEVICE IS IN A PUBLIC SPACE

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and ensure it is an appropriate environment for learning.

8. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks, however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online to ensure there is the opportunity for fresh air and physical exercise.

3. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.

6. ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer. Take an active interest, helping and supporting when needed.

9. NOT ALL REMOTE LEARNING IS ONLINE

Don't forget that sharing stories, reading, practising number bonds and multiplication facts, handwriting, creative activity and talking to your child about their work will go a long way in continuing their learning outside the classroom.

Wiltshire Council



DATES FOR DIARY

Friday 12 th February	-	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 22 nd February	-	TD Day
Tuesday 23 rd February	-	First Day of Term 4

Part of Pickwick Academy Trust

Vision: *"to work together to provide the best schools and outcomes for our children"*

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