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Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to 2021, which is already beginning to feel like 2020!!

As a school, we were forging ahead with re-opening as usual on Tuesday 5th January. However, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown on Monday 4th January.

This means the closure of all Primary and Secondary schools until at least the 15th February.

As a school, we had planned what we would do if we had to shut a bubble, or even multiple bubbles. I do not think for a moment we imagined, having to put those plans in place for the whole school for another lockdown, within 24 hours. However, staff have continued to work incredibly hard to ensure that our strategy for introducing, developing and supporting high quality home learning for children and families is securely in place.

Please take the time to read the following points, so you know what we are planning over the next few weeks and how we will support you and your children.

You should receive an email by 4.30 pm today Friday 8th Jan 2021. This will contain the following two documents;

- A **'Learning Intention'** weekly overview for your child's year group. This will reflect the range of curriculum tasks available each day and suggested timings. It is important to stress that this is a suggested timetable to show how you could structure the day. The videos and lessons can be accessed at any point in the day so that they can be watched at a time that suits the family (meaning where devices are shared, children can take turns).
- A **'Parent & Pupil Support Planner'**. This provides more specific guidance on each task and includes embedded links to the resources needed. Tasks might include videoed explanations, Microsoft learning platform tools & other appropriate resources that children are familiar with. It will also indicate when and how assessment and feedback will be provided to pupils and identify 'Challenge' activities which are appropriate to each task.

The Parent & Pupil planner will be sent twice a week as follows;

- Sent on a Friday before 4.00 pm showing Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday's tasks.
- Re-sent on a Wednesday before 5.00 pm showing Thursday & Friday's Tasks.

This will ensure that lessons are well sequenced and knowledge and skills are built on children's secure understanding before moving forward. It will also provide teachers a chance to address any problems that children are having with concepts and skills and narrow any gaps.

Today Friday 8th January 2021 and for week beginning Monday 11th January, we will **only** send Monday & Tuesday's tasks. Wednesday, Thursday & Friday's tasks will follow on Tuesday 12th January before 5.00 pm

Questions you may have

Does my child need to complete all the tasks each day?

We would like all children to prioritise and have completed tasks relating to the following;

Reading

Phonics (if it is planned for your year group)

Writing

Maths

We are eager to offer a balanced and rich range of activities across the week to reflect learning that would normally take place if school was open. Art, Science, History & P.E give children an opportunity to enjoy more practical tasks and are far more interactive. However, it will not always be possible for parents to enable these activities on a regular basis and we completely understand that.

Teachers will be keeping a work tracker and will check this off when a piece of work is received. If work is not submitted on the websites or through email for more than two days we will contact families to check in and see if there is anything we can do to support.

Will there be an alternative arrangement if my child cannot access a device?

Each year group has prepared paper based packs to substitute online learning. These will include activities which reflect the learning online and cover the same learning intentions but may not be exactly the same.

If you require a pack then you can email the correct year group email address below and arrange to collect one before or after school has begun for critical workers provision.

We are aware that the government are working towards providing more devices for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils but I have not yet received any confirmation from the Dfe regarding this. I will keep you updated.

How can we communicate with our class teacher?

Staffing continues to be a challenge with some staff now required to shield and other isolating staff who are not able to support face to face learning for critical workers. This means that a weekly staffing rota has been created which enables one teacher to teach their bubble and one teacher to support online learning. You or your child can use the year group email addresses below to contact teachers available within your year group.

nursery@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

reception@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

year1@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

year2@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

year3@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

year4@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

year5@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

year6@pyegreen.uwmat.co.uk

Please Note

- You may not get a direct response from your class teacher as they might be delivering face-face teaching that day within the critical worker provision, but you will get a response from the teacher who is supporting home learning within your year group.
- The year group email above is the **only** email to be used for support and queries directly about the learning or tasks.

- If children are asked to submit work via email this is the **only** one to use.

Please ensure that your child is **not** emailing individual teachers directly to any other email and they are addressing the teacher appropriately in any correspondence to ensure good safeguarding practices are followed.

Teachers will be keeping a work tracker and will check this off when a piece of work is received. If work is not submitted on the website or through email for a couple of days we will contact families to check in and see if there is anything we can do to support.

We appreciate there may be some early teething problems with our approach but we are determined to support both teachers and pupils. Over the next few weeks we will be developing additional resources in the following ways:

A planned Nurture support time for specific groups of pupils.

'Talk to the Teacher' drop in Teams session for PSHE.

Ms Ingram & Mrs Yates – Weekly Celebration & News

Live Lesson Starters & Learning Reviews in Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

We are currently working with staff and UWMAT to develop our 'Live Learning' approach which will enhance our ability to interact with pupils directly but will not replace the blended model above.

Our aims are to ensure that:

- children maintain routine and structure during term time;
- work can be completed flexibly with a range of resources and support;
- children enjoy the work they carry out and get to see a familiar face;
- children have the opportunity to learn something new or apply a previously learnt skill.

Working from home is not ideal, we know from the first lockdown how hard it was for some of you to maintain a routine or to support your child whilst continuing to work yourselves.

As ever, we will endeavour to do what we can to deliver high quality learning and support families through the challenges ahead.

Yours sincerely

E. Ingram Headteacher