

28th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remote Learning Update

Thank you to everyone who completed the Remote Learning Survey – we had 178 responses of which 99.4% were extremely positive, so only one negative!

As a school we have looked at how we can improve our Remote Learning offer from the suggestions made:

- As a staff we have ensured that our Remote Learning Offer is consistent across the school.
- All teaching staff are available via zoom from 9 until 2.30pm, everyday.
- Every class has a core lesson everyday – this time does not change, making it easier for you to plan if children are sharing devices.
- We have uploaded a copy of every class' timetable to our website – so that it is easier to refer to and you don't need to scroll through ClassDojo to find it.
- Daily timetables and support documents are uploaded to ClassDojo either in the class story or in the child's portfolios.
- Ensure printed work packs have a printed timetable at the front of the pack.
- Encourage all pupils to be on time for their lessons – follow up phone calls will be made to families to remind them if they are late to a session.
- All children enter a session on mute whilst on Zoom – only the teacher can unmute them.
- Ensure there is a mix of writing on devices as well as completing tasks in their Remote Learning Books.
- SEN Department contact with families to ensure children with additional needs are able to access their learning whilst at home.
- Screen Free Day – see below for details

Heads of Academy Team

Head of Academy Mr Gavin Bradley • **Executive Head Teacher** Mr Andrew Smith • **Deputy Head Teacher** Mrs Ellie Eames

White Hall Academy, Melbourne Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3SP

Tel 01255 422825 • **Fax** 01255 221705

Email admin@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk • **Web** www.whitehallacademy.co.uk

Accessing Learning and welfare support

So far, since 4th January we have:

- Distributed over 100 laptops and Amazon Fires
- Extended data agreements with Mobile networks for over 130 families
- Handed out 40 additional Data SIMs
- Ordered over 100 headsets with microphones
- Ordered additional Wifi Dongles
- Carried out over 300 home visits, including delivering work packs.
- Made over 15,000 phone calls
- Communicated over 132,000 times through ClassDojo
- Given out over 55 food parcels and 14 Baby Hygiene Packs.

If you need anything please do not hesitate in contacting Miss Watts or myself through ClassDojo.

Screen Free Day – starting Wednesday 3rd February

From next Wednesday we are introducing a screen free day – lots of our families would like children to have some time away from a screen to engage with different activities.

- Each week on a Wednesday we will upload 15 different activities; every child must complete 6 activities – spending at least 30 minutes on each activity.
- The activities will change each week.
- The children will log on briefly to ClassDojo to register at 9am and then turn their devices off for the rest of the day!
- The following day, the children upload to ClassDojo a photo of the activities they did or write up their learning.
- The children who are attending school will do the same activities.
- Our Staff may call you on a Wednesday to check in to see how things are going, especially our class teachers who may not have been able to telephone before due to teaching commitments.

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Welfare Calls

Just a reminder about contact from school:

Every day our children must be engaging with remote education; our younger pupils should be doing at least three hours a day and our oldest pupils should be doing a minimum of 4 hours a day – as directed by the Department of Education.

- If your child logs onto the daily zooms every day you will not receive a phone call from school.
- If your child is registering via ClassDojo and uploading their work every day via ClassDojo you will not receive a phone call.
- If your child is working from a paper pack and uploading the work onto ClassDojo every day, you will not receive a phone call.
- If your child is working from a paper pack and not uploading their work daily they will receive a phone call to check how their learning is going.
- If your child's work pack has not been collected and there is no evidence of learning, you will firstly be contacted by the class, if they are unable to make contact; it is passed onto the Heads and Pastoral team who will try and make contact; if contact is not made we conduct a home visit. If we have exhausted all efforts to make contact with you, a referral may be made to external agencies.

We will continue to leave the Remote Learning survey open should anybody like to add their views. The link can be found on the school website at the bottom of the front page.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable School places.

Just a reminder if your child has already been allocated a place you DO NOT need to complete the form again.

If you would like to apply for a school place for Critical Worker or Vulnerable School provision, please complete the online form which is located on the school website.

Kind regards

Mrs Eames

Deputy Headteacher

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