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Stephanie Severn (Mrs.) – Head Teacher

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Dear Parents/Carers

What a week it has been! Lots of changes and lots of adaptations have had to take place. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain where we are now and what you can expect over the next six weeks.

Key Worker Setting

We have set up a Key Worker childcare facility. Thank you for the prompt response to the application process. The facility is just about full now and all parents have had their places confirmed. We haven't been able to meet everyone's requests for specific days, but we have done our best to offer something. The parents of all the children who will be attending the setting have received guidance about the use of the facility. Can I say thank you to those parents who have been so accommodating when we have asked parents to adjust working days and working hours so we can offer places to as many people as possible. This is just another indication of how well the Hope Brook community work together to help each other. I keep saying this – but it is by working together that we will get through this.

Remote Learning

All the teachers are posting remote learning daily on the eschools Homework pages. Each day, the teachers will post at least one English activity, one maths activity and one activity from another curriculum area. The expectation is that work will be submitted daily. The children's work will need to be submitted on the homework page. There are several ways to submit work. Sheets or any kind of document can be completed on line and submitted like an email. Sometimes teachers will provide a text box for pupil responses – or you can take a photo of the children's work and submit that as an attachment to an email. If you are having any difficulty submitting work – it can always be emailed to admin@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk and Mrs McGinley will forward the work to the appropriate teacher.

Please remember, the children will need to use their own login details to access the Eschools homework pages. This cannot be accessed via the parents' login details. The school office has copies of all the login details if required.

Some of the lessons will be based on the Oak national Academy materials – the materials on this site have been produced by excellent teachers; the content has been verified by experts and has

been carefully matched to year group objectives. There is a very impressive suite of materials on this site.

Teachers will be monitoring work, interacting with pupils via the Eschools website and logging pupil contributions – so keeping a check on the progress of every individual child. We understand that there are a lot of challenges with remote learning and we will be working hard to support families with those challenges. We have already resolved lots of login issues – so please let us know if you are having difficulty with this mode of learning.

We have been told that the Government is going to make some devices available to us. We believe that we are going to be sent information about how to access devices on 15th January. These devices will be made available to families. I am not sure how generous this offer will be – but we will jump at the opportunity to order devices if we are given that opportunity.

Communication

All the staff will be involved in keeping in contact with the children in their classes. Contact will be via their Eschool pages, through phone calls or through zoom meetings.

We are going to trial the use of a 'Zoom' day for each class. The teaching staff will use zoom meetings to keep in touch with the children in their class, to talk to them about the learning activities and enable the children to keep in touch with each other. Each class has been allocated a specific day for their zoom meetings:

Mondays – Wagtails

Tuesday – Kingfishers

Wednesday – Woodpeckers

Thursday – Kestrels

Friday – Robins (Please note the planned zoom meetings for Monday 11th January will still go ahead.)

You will be sent links to relevant zoom meetings which may be whole class, small group, large group or individual meetings. Links will be sent through the Eschools messaging service.

We hope that you are gaining the sense that home learning will feel very different from the last lockdown. We have learnt a lot through this experience and hope to keep improving the service we provide. There will inevitably be some difficulties and hurdles over the next few weeks – but we will keep working on resolving the problems and find ways of making this mode of learning work for our children. It is in all our interests to get this right.

Good luck with the remote learning.

Take care and stay safe,

Stephanie Severn

