



Hope Brook Church of England Primary School  
Church Road  
Longhope  
Gloucester  
GL17 0LL  
Tel: 01452 830558  
Fax: 01452 831139  
E-mail: admin@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk

Stephanie Severn (Mrs.) – Head Teacher

15 January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

It's the end of another busy week – when all of us have been getting used to new routines and more new ways of working. We know this is a really challenging time for everyone and we are continuing to develop and improve the ways we support our children during this time.

### Remote Learning

It has been great to see so many people engaging with the Remote Learning. You will be aware of the Government's expectation that all children engage with a minimum of 3 hours (4 hours for KS2) Remote Learning each day. This is an ambitious aim which we will keep under review. If you are finding this difficult, please try not to worry. We will work together to find something that works for you and your family circumstances. I have outlined below a few points that clarify how this should work at our school.

All of Hope Brook's Remote Learning can be accessed via the Eschools platform (using the children's login).

Each day, the teachers post approximately 3 hours work for your children. This usually comprises an English session, a maths session and at least one other area of learning – which might be topic, science, PE, art etc. In addition to this work, the children continue to have access to the activities on the various programs we use in school to practise skills, such as TTRockstars, Active Learn, Lexia, Read Theory etc. Please note that different classes use different programs. Your children should continue to use the programs they have used in school. We suggest that priority should be given to the tasks set in English and maths – before moving on to the games.

We also hope that the children will continue to keep up with their reading. We know how much of an impact the last lockdown had on our children's reading. As well as incorporating reading activities into the Remote Learning packages, the teachers in KS2 are encouraging the children to maintain their reading journals. This will enable the teachers to monitor this element of their learning.

Once the work has been completed, the work should be submitted to the class teacher – using the variety of strategies outlined in last week's message. Originally, we asked for work to be submitted by 3pm. This week it has become obvious that this can be difficult to manage – so we are just asking for the work to be submitted as soon as possible.

Staff will mark / respond to work as appropriate to the task. Please be aware that as well as the planning / posting of the work – staff are also staffing the key worker setting. This might have an impact on the immediacy of responding to the work – but please be assured that all the teachers are continuing to monitor the children's progress through the work children are submitting.

The children, particularly in KS2, are becoming more confident in using the messaging service that is available through the Eschools platform. The purpose of this facility is for the children to be able to ask their teacher, or their peers, for help with their work. This has been a very useful tool and has been used by some parents too. It is important that children understand that this facility is in place to discuss school work only.

If your child is in the YR year group, the activities will look very different as they follow a different curriculum to the rest of the school. Their learning tasks will be much more activity based and based on using language for investigating and exploring. We will be encouraging the children to keep up with their phonics and you may be directed to some on line video resources for this work.

### Devices

We are well aware that access to appropriate devices for Remote Learning can be a huge challenge, and we are trying to support as many families as possible. We have been allocated a small number of devices by the DfE (we anticipate this will be about 5 devices) and we have a small number of school devices that we are able to loan families. We hope to organize who will receive these devices during the next week. If you are struggling to manage with devices and would like to be considered for a school loan option, please email [admin@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk)

### Zoom

We have had a couple of issues with zoom meetings this week so please accept my apologies if your anticipated zoom meeting didn't happen. Hopefully, these meetings will work better over the coming weeks. I think I mentioned last week that the staff are anticipating using zoom in various ways including whole class, small group and one-to-one sessions. Some of these will be teaching sessions and some of them will be opportunities for the children to 'catch up' with their classmates. Links will be sent to you through Eschools as they are scheduled.

Finally, can I just say thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to get home schooling up and running in your homes. This is an enormously difficult situation and we know all of you are doing your very best in all your unique circumstances – and you are doing a fantastic job.

We will make this work – and before we know it, everyone will be back in school, enjoying the Hope Brook learning environment. Until then, continue to stay at home and stay safe.

Stephanie Severn