

Dear parents, carers and students,

“Live” lessons...snow...and our first lateral flow tests completed for staff and those students on site – take a bow “Team Sherburn!” Yet, again the engagement of students and the lovely feedback from parents and carers has blown us away.

Of course, this way of teaching and learning is new for all and I thought it might be worth sharing some “Frequently Asked Questions” with you, as already, even after just two weeks, we have learnt a lot!

Remote Learning: Frequently Asked Questions

My child has tried to join the live lessons but has been denied access – why?

This will be because you have not completed the Acceptable User Agreement which can be found [here](#): Don't forget that agreement must be ticked by BOTH parent and child.

And remember, that for safeguarding reasons students need to join the live lesson on their school account. Some students are forgetting this, and being denied access.

My child doesn't know how to upload photographed work

See the handy guide attached to this letter

Someone in my child's class is easily completing all the work and my child isn't managing to do this. Will my child fall behind or will they get in trouble?

It is important not to compare one learner with another – what some find easy, some will find hard and vice versa. It's even more important to realise that all we want is for students to engage, try their best and let us know via the private comment section on Google Classroom if they're stuck or finding things too easy. Most of all, our intention is not to get anyone “in trouble” or for any students to “fall behind.”

Moreover, when the students return, we will do what we did in September, and look at where they are at and put support in place to address any gaps that may have arisen.

I think my child is doing the work that's been set, but how will I know if they're not?

Each day staff are tracking student submissions of work. This is checked weekly by Curriculum Leaders, House Achievement Leaders and Senior Leaders. Where students are not submitting work, you will receive a text message and/or email and where serious concerns exist a phone call. The purpose of this communication is to support you and your child, and to explore what we can put in place so that work is completed.

Is there anything I should be checking in terms of how long my child spends on their work or in terms of what's expected of them?

Yes, please!

Most remote learning follows a simple structure, which can be condensed down to: the teaching of new content/skill (sometimes through a video or PowerPoint) and then activities around this skill or content which is then submitted to their teacher. It is vitally important that students watch or read the material they are given for the new learning. We feel some students are skipping straight to the activity and submitting low quality work in order to be ‘finished’. Your help in discussing this with your child would be invaluable!

It is really important that students take part in each of their lessons, as they form a sequence of lessons. So for example, in science, if they have missed a lesson on 'electromagnets', the previous day, but attempt to complete today's science lesson which is 'uses of electromagnets', they are going to struggle. Just like when they are in school, every lesson counts!

My child normally gets in-class support from a Teaching Assistant, they're really struggling without this

From next week, Teaching Assistants will be joining some live lessons. They will be there to support learners and will be able to support students with their work.

Teaching assistants are also being added to some student's Google Classrooms. This means that if students use the private message function, the Teaching Assistant who normally supports them, will be able to reply and help a student with their work.

I'm getting stressed and so are my children – How can I get three different children with three different lots of work done and work from home??

You can't, stop trying! It just can't be done 100% of the time. Cut yourself some slack – we're all simply trying our best. And remember, the work that we are setting is work that students should be able to do independently. If they can't, then please contact their class teacher and let them know what the issues are.

And, as always please contact your child's House Achievement Leader – we don't want anyone to feel stressed or worried; we're a Team and we need to work collaboratively to get through this.

In other news...

Thank you to all the parents and carers who participated in the recent Parent Governor Elections. We had a record number of votes cast and we are delighted to announce that Muhammad Kanna and Gary (Michelle – I can't find his last name or remember it!)

And finally...

This week a very special Super Six is being awarded to one of our Twitter followers, for perhaps my favourite tweet of all time! Thank you to the parent who shared a brilliant picture of the snow falling outside, and their child diligently working #itdoesn'tsnowinagooglegclassroom!

Have a good weekend, (and make sure you take that bow!)

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher
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