

# WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Westbury-on-Severn  
CE Primary School**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we are nearly at the end of week two and it has certainly been another busy week. There have been lots more changes and expectations from the Department for Education and we are all trying to get to grips with it all whilst continuing to deliver learning in class and at home.

Once again, I want to thank you for the perseverance and support that you have shown us as a school. I have so many emails and messages of support and thanks for what we are trying to achieve for all the children. It has certainly not been without its difficulties or teething issues, but it seems to be that we are all now finding the rhythm that we need to make learning in school simultaneous with remote-learning at home, so thank you for playing your part in it.

I know how difficult it is though, to have to juggle your own lives – which still goes on – with the need to ensure that your child is accessing and completing the Government's requirements for remote-learning. I know that at times this seems like an impossible task and when you are trying to connect to Wi-Fi, working out how to access Google Classrooms, timetabling the next zoom catch-up or lesson for each child, struggling to understand how maths is delivered; 'because we didn't do it like that when we were at school!' It seems like an uphill struggle. When you add into that mix, managing secondary school expectations – some of you – as well and having to get lunch ready. I want you to know that WE UNDERSTAND! You are all doing an amazing job so should be proud of how you have achieved the things you have.

This new way of working is a learning-curve for us all and in school many of those things you are experiencing we are too. When Wi-Fi stops a lesson because of bad connectivity, or we are overlapping with another zoom call, it is frustrating and hard here too because we all want to make it work for all the children.

However, we will make it work. As you all know, one of our core Christian values is Perseverance and that is how we will get through this together. We are always at the end of the phone, though not when trying to teach, and we will answer questions and worries as quickly as we can – though not when we are teaching. That is important to know because each class in school will operate in a slightly different way depending on the amount of adults in the room and what the children are engaged in.

I think that the 3pm deadline has caused some anxiety, but let me once again explain and hopefully reassure you what this means. Half-way through the day, the teachers will check in with the learning that has been submitted on Google Classrooms to see what is happening at home and possibly send some feedback or respond to concerns. This is a quick and general catch up. However, it usually happens at lunch-time, and my staff also need to eat! At 3pm until 4pm, staff are doing their daily feedback and marking of the work that has been submitted. This is more thorough and helps the teacher to see what the next steps for learning might be for the next day, or whether the weekly plan that has been sent home needs tweaking or changing. The reason for having 3pm as a deadline for submission means that teachers have all the learning in so they can do that before then starting to prepare for the next day. However, if work is not submitted at 3pm DON'T PANIC!! It might say it is late handed in, but it matters not. At the very most, it might mean that the teacher will not be able to mark it until the following day. We



completely understand that life happens, and when you are juggling life, sometimes things beyond our control change the plan. So, if learning is submitted after 3pm, that is fine as long as it is submitted at some point so that we have a record of the work that has been done.

Please remember, that we are here to help and to take on board helpful feedback. There are some things we can do and some things that we can't. The media is talking a lot about provision of laptops for example. We have a limited supply for the children to be using in school. We don't have enough for one each and it is very unlikely that we will have. We are doing our best to respond to requests for help in this area so bear with us.

And finally, it is clear that some people are using Facebook as a mechanism to communicate with others. It is super to have those connections, and to be able to link with each other, especially now we can't mix socially. However, please be mindful of things that you put on Facebook that are inaccurate, untrue or that could cause distress to others who see it. I am very concerned about everyone's mental health at the moment, parents' children and my staff, who once again have had to bear the brunt of the swift Governmental changes and expectations that are being placed on us frequently through this pandemic. So like we say to the children, I lovingly ask that when using social media, be kind.

You are all doing a great job and should be proud of what you are doing at home.

With warmest wishes,



David Crunkhurn  
Headteacher