

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Welcome back to term 3. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas despite the circumstances.

Thank you for all your kind words last term and words of support received at the beginning of this term. Receiving cards and emails with words of support and thanks means the world to us. I cannot reinforce how lucky we are at Uley to have such a dedicated staff team, supportive families and governing body, and such lovely children.

I hope this first letter of 2021 finds you all safe and well. Monday's INSET with teachers was a valuable and productive day spent planning for the next few weeks ahead and reflecting on how well we are progressing on our school development journey. Little did we know at that point the decisions made by the government on that same evening and how it would (yet again) change the course of direction that we were on.

Although there has been a feeling of a pending school closure, none of us would have predicted that it was going to happen with immediate effect but then that is the unpredictable nature of the virus we have come to know. I am amazed by the dedication of the school staff and the parental support that enabled a smooth transition, resulting in school being open on Tuesday morning for critical and vulnerable workers, and how quickly the teachers re-adapted their plans for remote learning with absolutely no time to prepare. The remote learning policy is something that has evolved and has been made accessible for all over the autumn term and now we implement it. This will continue to develop it as we learn and flourish.

Our one glitch on Tuesday was Microsoft Teams – thank you for your patience in this matter. Now this has been resolved, we are already building confidence along with the children at using this. It is hard to believe that this has happened in the last 48 hours or so. Let's not forget that although some staff have been using Teams for a few months for meetings, for a lot of staff and families this is a new experience and have already discovered in the last couple of days what a great tool it is to support the children's learning and wellbeing, and how it can bring the two communities together in and out of school. It has been lovely seeing the children at home on the screen and being brought back in to the school community.

The teachers have been working tirelessly to set up a different style of schooling in the last 3 days and now they are presented with the challenging task of providing combined learning for children in school and children at home. Teachers have sent emails this week with work related to our Live, Learn, Flourish week. A week that takes place every September and January that captures learning within what is known as the 'hidden curriculum' in contrast to the formal curriculum. For example, areas explored include our school values of compassion, friendship, trust and wisdom, reminding ourselves about our school Christian ethos, focusing on British values (for more information

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380595/SMSC\\_Guidance\\_Maintained\\_Schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf)), reflection on the previous term and looking forward to the new term and mental health and wellbeing.

## Remote Education – Distant Learning

Our Remote Education Policy says,

Activity web as with reference to topic already planned sent out on a Friday – **please note after a lot of discussion and decision making, this has been amended to a Monday. During the last lockdown staff had time to prepare learning at home on a Friday. Teachers are now expected to teach the children in school as well as remotely all week and teachers will need the weekends to prepare.**

Oak Academy cross referenced to help support the school's curriculum plus other resources to support – as above

Video communication across the week via **Microsoft Teams**. This may look like:

- Daily attendance through Microsoft TEAMS for registration and check in for the day. If your child does not check in during these time's then you will be contacted:
  - o Class 4 9:00am
  - o Class 3 9:20am
  - o Class 2 9:40am
  - o Class 1 10:00am
- Beginning of the week to introduce the work
- PSHE/wellbeing activities
- School pre-recorded activities as required
- As the teacher sees is best to support learning and wellbeing – **this will be informed by the teacher's judgement on daily/weekly basis and how they see fit to support the children remotely**
- Individual 1-1 for those in need of support – **again using professional judgement to support children**

Class emails for communication:

[class1@uley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class1@uley.gloucs.sch.uk)

[class2@uley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class2@uley.gloucs.sch.uk)

[class3@uley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class3@uley.gloucs.sch.uk)

[class4@uley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class4@uley.gloucs.sch.uk)

Phone calls/video calls to check in and support by class and office staff

Interaction with school provision provided will be monitored as before

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You will be informed of any online sessions in advance, so I recommend that you check your children's emails and TEAMS calendar regularly, more so now that we have moved to rely on technology.

Remote learning is a combination of set learning tasks, recorded learning tasks, feedback and monitoring and using teacher judgement to support children's learning through live video– this will be informed through the children's learning and the teachers planning.

Since Tuesday, teachers have updated you on learning for the week and there have been communications through the week. This coming Monday you will receive further communications about the week ahead as we move into the more formal curriculum. The use of TEAMS will evolve and will be utilised to support the children's learning remotely. There are now two times set for the day for each class to be on line and

the teacher's will also use TEAMS on a needs basis to support the children's learning. The teachers will be informing you via their class email.

These two set times for being on line are:

- Class 4 9:00am
- Class 3 9:20am
- Class 2 9:40am
- Class 1 10:00am

And:

- Class 1 – 3.00pm
- Class 2 – 1.30pm
- Class 3 – 2.15pm
- Class 4 – 2.40pm

Attendance at the morning and afternoon sessions is expected by everyone but should there be a problem with you joining or should there be any IT glitches, then please send an email to the class email from the children's school email address.

Please note that we are transitioning to using the children's school email addresses from the parent's emails when using the class emails. Parents can continue to email admin in the usual way.

There is an expectation from the school and government that families at home should be engaging with the school's curriculum. We will be tracking engagement in the school's remote learning and will be in touch with families for support. Registers will be taken at the morning and afternoon session.

Within the Remote Learning Policy you will find a code of conduct and also within the TEAMS how to guide. I will bring these codes of conducts together and circulate them next week to ensure that everybody is working within the agreed boundaries.

We have exercise books to hand out for our remote learners. A lined writing book and a squared maths book will be available to collect on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January between 3.40pm and 4.45pm**. The books will be available at the infant end of the school. Please walk up the footpath next to the school and The Knoll, collect the books (these will be named), walk through the playground and out of the double gates and down the around the one-way system as before.

We kindly request support for all our teachers that are being expected to teach children in school and out of school and balancing communications inside and outside of school as well as marking and preparing for all children in the class. The children's education is paramount and our vision for every child to Live, Learn and Flourish is at the heart of all we do.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss remote learning, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As always, thank you for all your support during these challenging times.

### **Critical Worker/Vulnerable children in Attendance**

This lockdown the expectation is different compared to March 2020. If you are eligible as a critical worker to send your child(ren) to school, the expectation is that we see your child(ren) in school Monday – Friday for the continuity of their education. Therefore there is no need to request specific days as we did in the March 20 lockdown.

Children in school are expected to wear uniform and to come to school in PE kit or to bring PE in to school at the request of the class teacher.

Please bring a packed lunch or you can order a lunch from school. Please bring a snack and a water bottle as we did during the autumn term.

The amount of vulnerable children and critical workers has been risk assessed and spaces allocated. Safety remains paramount and measures continue to be implemented.

If you feel you fit the criteria for a critical worker or at any time you are finding being at home and supporting remote learning a challenge and/or your personal circumstances change (e.g. loss of earnings, changes in mental health, changes in children's behaviour, pressure within the household) please phone the school to have chat.

### **End of Year Assessments**

Statutory key stage 1 and key stage 2 tests and teacher assessments planned for summer 2021, including the key stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics, will not take place, although the school will continue to use our online tracking system which will be informed by the interaction, marking and feedback for children in and out of school.

### **Safety Measures**

Thank you for wearing masks at drop-offs and pick-ups. Please may I remind parents to stick to the one way system as mentioned in the school document and to keep socially distanced. The Uley School community are all doing a really good job and I thank you!

### **A Message From Lisa - Internet connection**

The Department for Education are working together with phone companies to ensure all children who do not have broadband at home have access to the internet to support home learning.

This scheme is open to children and young people who:

- don't have access to a **fixed broadband connection**
- cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources or social care services
- have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network
- are facing disruption to their face-to-face education, or have been advised not to attend school

If you would like help and support, please contact the school office where we will be able to discuss the scheme further with you.

### **Wrapping Up Warm**

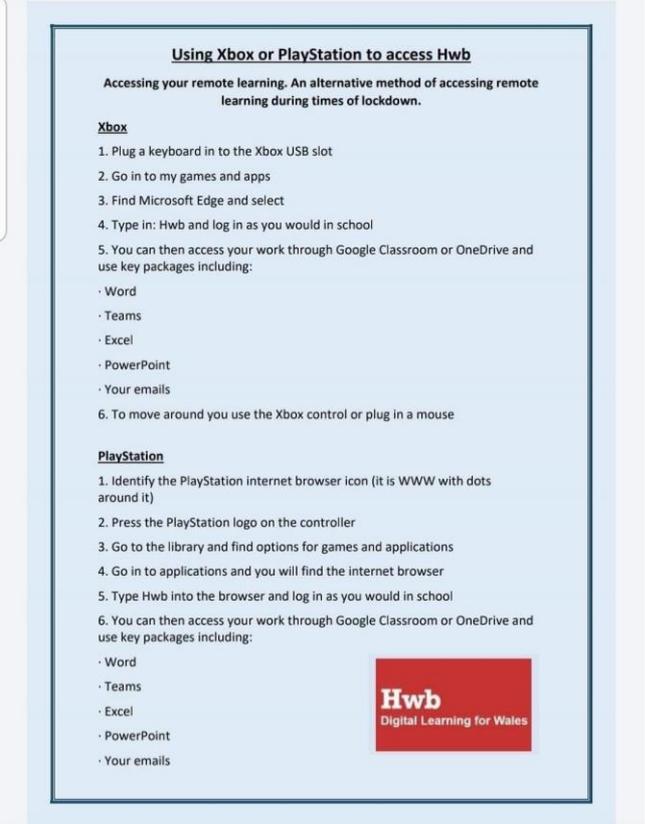
Good ventilation is one of the safety measures that we need to implement. This means that most windows in school will be open throughout the day. Please may I suggest that the children wear an extra base layer or two and bring in hats, gloves, scarves and a warm winter coat for going outside.

## Government Milk and Fruit

Please note that the government has suspended all milk and fruit deliveries for the time being. To help us promote a healthy balanced diet, please provide your children in school with healthy snacks and drinks (no fizzy drinks please). Friday is fruitless Friday.

## Accessing Remote Learning

You may have already seen this...



**Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Hwb**

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

**Xbox**

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in: Hwb and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
  - Word
  - Teams
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse

**PlayStation**

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
  - Word
  - Teams
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Your emails



## School Closures

In the event that the school or a class has to close, the procedures are:

- You will receive a text message
- A message will be posted on the Gloucestershire County Council website so please check: <http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closedschools/>
- A message will be posted on the school website

## Covid Email

We have set up a COVID email. The purpose of this email to inform the school if a child or parent tests positive for Coronavirus over the weekend. If you receive positive test results over a weekend please email this information to [covid@uley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:covid@uley.gloucs.sch.uk). For test results during the week, please phone/email the school as usual.

“They are like trees that grow beside a stream that bear fruit at the right time and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in all they do.”