



Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School
The Butts
Lydiard Millicent
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN5 3LR
Headteacher: Mrs Carly Luce

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a week! I am very grateful to families for the continued support and understanding coming our way and I am incredibly proud of the way the staff team has pulled together to get remote and onsite systems up and running again, especially after they had already spent time planning out a very different week. As a staff team, we have been very impressed with the way children onsite have settled quickly back into school and the way that children learning at home have embraced the remote learning systems. As a school family we are always looking to the next thing and planning how we can improve things but I do think it is important to take a moment and be very proud of what we have achieved as a school community from 8pm on Monday.

As always, when there is a change there is quite a bit of information to share - so you might want to settle down for a cup of tea with this one! Moving forwards, we expect to return to brief reminders via ParentMail and the usual newsletters as our main way of communicating.

An overview of our remote learning plan in the event of a bubble or school closure is on our school website but I thought it might be helpful for parents to see an overview of our approach to see how this is matched with the DfE expectations:

Approaches to be used:

- Daily Zoom sessions for each class to set and explore the learning for each day. Whilst we ask for parents to be within earshot of these sessions for safeguarding reasons and we understand some children may need more support with technology, please keep in mind these sessions are for the children and not the forum for parents to communicate with teachers. This time is precious and we have other forums for parent-teacher communication. To protect all, any families not following the rules around Zoom, sent out earlier this week, will be removed from the session.
- An overall weekly plan to guide learning will be published on the school website (class pages) every Monday morning by 9 am. This week, the plans for Y1-Y6 will include links to resources AND the resources will be in class folders on Purple Mash but from the week beginning 18th January all of the resources will only be available on Purple Mash, with a plan on the website for reference (all by 9am). It is important that we streamline the systems to ensure that we can maintain

the quality.

- Learning will be set so that children have a range of subjects across the day and week, replicating a typical weekly timetable.
- Learning must be matched closely to the curriculum children would have been learning in school and should be adapted as children make progress and therefore each week's learning will be available on a Monday morning (rather than Friday afternoon) so that teachers have had time to adapt their planning and resources to match the needs of their class at that time.
- We know that children work and learn at different speeds but it is expected that the work set should provide at least 3 hours of learning per day for KS1, slightly less for EYFS, and 4 hours for KS2 (this includes the Zoom sessions).
- Teaching staff will provide frequent, clear explanations of new content through the daily Zooms and this will be supplemented, where appropriate through well-chosen curriculum resources and/or videos. For some learning, children will be directed to school-led videos or those created by other providers such as Oak National Academy or White Rose Maths.
- Our topic webs for the term will be published on the class pages of the school website on Monday. Teachers will continue to plan from these so that the learning is matched closely to the year group's curriculum.
- During the term, class pages on the school website will also signpost parents/carers to other resources/websites that may be useful.

How work will be submitted:

- Via Purple Mash (Y1 to Y6) or the ILD (EYFS).

Access to devices, printed materials:

- We are unable to loan laptops or iPads to families but through our Academy Trust, we will be writing to parents next week about data and Wi-Fi support. One-off printed work packs (separate to the weekly learning) have been made available for collection.

Support for pupils with particular needs:

- Support will be provided in a variety of ways. This might be through additional contact with our SENCO, differentiated tasks set by the class teacher via the ILD/Purple Mash, additional check-ins or a set pack of work as agreed.

Engagement, assessment and feedback:

- Teachers will check the ILD (EYFS)/Purple Mash (Y1-Y6) each day and also will be able to gauge levels of engagement via the daily Zoom sessions and the learning and interaction on the ILD/Purple Mash. Feedback on the learning set will be provided as often as possible and it is our aim that this is daily. Feedback will be via Purple Mash (Y1 to Y6) or the ILD (EYFS).
- Teachers will adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments via Zoom and through activities on the ILD/Purple Mash. The ILD/Purple Mash systems allow teachers to assign tasks to individual children and this function will also be used where appropriate.

We know that everyone's situation is different. 'We are all in the same storm but in different boats' is a phrase often used to describe experiences of the pandemic. We know from feedback during the last school closure that some parents prefer their children not to use devices at all, some families don't have a sufficient number of devices and lots of parents are themselves continuing to work whilst supporting remote learning. It isn't possible to find one approach that will meet everyone's specific requirements but we are confident that our plan meets the DfE requirements and covers as many needs as possible.

Expectations around remote learning are high and it is our duty to meet the DfE requirements. Whilst that may unintentionally apply pressure on families - creating a sense that you should do everything we set - all staff acknowledge that every situation is different. The high expectations are placed on us, not you. Please do not contact teachers about any concerns with the overall remote learning offer. If you find that our core offer isn't supporting your child, please contact the School Office to arrange a phone call or Zoom meeting. This will enable us to fully understand the issues specific to your family, work with you to find a solution and leave teachers to focus on delivering high quality on site and remote teaching and learning.

We know that some parents/carers may be grateful of some guidance on getting to grips with the ILD and/or Purple Mash and some support will be provided with this next week.

Provision for children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable:

If your circumstances change and you believe your child is eligible for a place, please contact the School Office. If we do not have any places available, we will add you to a waiting list and we will ask those accessing the provision to regularly review whether it is still needed. We will require some information in order to process your request and we may not have a space available immediately so please always contact the School Office in the first instance. The guidance issued yesterday states that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Whatever the coming weeks bring for your family, I want you to know that the school will still very much be at the heart of it. We will continue to communicate regularly and we hope that the switch to daily Zoom sessions will help those at home to feel constantly connected to school and their class staff. We will continue to support and advise where we can.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs C Luce

Principal