

LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

MRS J. WESTHEAD B.Ed.(Hons) | HEADTEACHER
MR B. CUNLIFFE | CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Slag Lane | Lowton | Warrington
Cheshire | WA3 2ED

t: 01942 724865

f: 01942 721402

e: enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carers,

Letter re. Remote 'Home Learning'

Thank you children

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the children who are working hard at home to complete the 'home learning' work that has been set. All of the children are doing a great job and we are really pleased with the work that we are seeing being uploaded onto 'Seesaw'. Well done everyone – we really enjoy looking at the work that you have completed every day!

Thank you to all of the staff

I would also like to sincerely thank all of the staff for the fantastic job that they are doing in school. All of the staff are very busy both teaching the children in school **and** preparing a high quality remote 'home learning' programme for all of the children who are working at home. This is not an easy task but, as always, the Lowton West staff are doing their very best during these unprecedented times.

Thank you to all of the parents/ carers

Thank you parents for your support with the work at home and for the many kind messages of support that have been e-mailed into school.

If you have any feedback in relation to the 'Home Learning', we would ask that you e-mail school on the school e-mail address (rather than message the class teacher via Seesaw). Thank you.

Pre-recorded lessons

The teachers have been busy preparing pre-recorded lessons and you will see more of these over the next few weeks. We hope that you have found them useful so far!

Live lessons

There have been a few queries in relation to leading 'live' lessons. As a school, we have made the decision not to lead 'live' lessons. Instead, we will provide home learning tasks through pre-recorded teacher-led lessons and other high quality videos and resources.

There are a few reasons for not delivering 'live' lessons that I have outlined below:

- Due to the high numbers of key worker and vulnerable pupils in school, all of the teachers are busy teaching during the day and also then spending time responding to children's work; responding to parent queries; making telephone calls home; preparing pre-recorded lessons; uploading the 'home learning' work to Seesaw, etc... Therefore, the teachers do not have time to lead 'live' lessons as well.
- **The lessons may not be accessible for many pupils:** We educate young people from a variety of different backgrounds and home circumstances. Live online lessons require pupils to have access to a strong internet connection, their own computer and

a quiet place to work for the whole day. This is not feasible for many of our children. A large number of pupils have brothers and sisters who also need access to IT. In addition to this, many parents are also trying to work from home at the same time.

- **There are more effective ways to learn at a distance:** Live online lessons are not widely considered to be the best way for young people to learn at home. Rather than replicate the classroom environment, families will find 'live lessons' in primary school settings involve very little interaction and will require an adult being present. Due to safeguarding measures we would require cameras and microphones being turned off and children having the ability to type questions or replies. This could add further undue pressure on children to interact. We believe it to be more effective if pupils are directed towards high quality tutorials, being set tasks that are pitched well, and supported remotely by teachers answering their questions and monitoring the work completed. There are government funded, national organisations who provide video tutorials for schools to direct students to. One example is the Oak Academy, which we will also be using to supplement our own 'Home Learning'.

Why we have decided to include pre-recorded lessons and high quality video resources

Although we are not leading 'live' lessons, you will have noticed that the teachers have been preparing some pre-recorded lessons and other high quality videos/ resources (e.g. Oak Academy; White Rose Maths). The reasons for this are as follows:

- When lessons are pre-recorded, children can have a level of independence to choose which order they would like to undertake their learning. **Pupils can access the lessons at any time of the day.**
- A pre-recorded lesson can be paused, listened to again or fast forwarded, allowing children additional time and support if needed to complete a task. The 'Seesaw' learning platform then allows the teaching staff to give instant personal verbal or written feedback to help guide the children with their learning, help them build on their previous knowledge and keep them motivated to keep learning from home.

Paper packs

Paper packs can be provided if needed. We ask that, wherever possible, work completed is photographed and uploaded to 'Seesaw' so that it can be marked remotely.

Responding to pupils' work

All of the staff are working hard throughout the day to respond to pupils' work as quickly as possible. Feedback so far from parents indicates that this feedback is keeping pupils motivated when working from home. We are doing our very best to support pupils in this way.

Children's mental health and well-being

During these unprecedented times, it is most important that the emotional and mental well-being of children (and indeed adults) is given the highest priority.

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents.

The government have published guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please find the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

If you feel that you need any support, there are agencies such as Childline.org.uk (as well as other agencies outlined in the government guidance) who can provide support.

If you need support, you can also contact school and we can signpost pupils and parents to external agencies. We can also support your child via telephone calls from our Class Teachers and/or our Mental Health and Well-Being Practitioner – Helen Mills. Please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you need support.

Finally...

We are striving to ensure that our remote 'Home Learning' offer is of the highest quality. We have had positive feedback and other constructive feedback from families and we will continue to endeavour to provide the highest level of education possible for your child in these unprecedented times.

Thank you again to those people who have taken the time to provide feedback. It really does matter to us and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Westhead
Headteacher

Mr. B. Cunliffe
Chair of governors and Safeguarding governor



www.**lowtonwest**.wigan.sch.uk