



Friday 15th January 2021

LOCKDOWN 3 NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy week as routines change for most of us. We commend you all for your sterling efforts in becoming teachers at home. As many of us are parents ourselves, we are living the ups and downs of home learning with you - reflecting on our own skills and understanding, minimising distractions and of course - amazing but often frustrating technology! And most of you will have been working or caring for others too. Consider what you have achieved this week and move forward with a smile into next week. You've done well.

HOME LEARNING

EYFS

We have been delighted at the engagement of our littlest learners and really enjoy seeing your home learning adventures. Daily activities are posted on Evidence Me / Parent Share in various areas of learning and are all things that you can do at home with minimal resources and preparation. Reception children are also able to follow their usual Read, Write, Inc programme. We check your submissions throughout the day and provide feedback and next steps/ideas to all of them. It has been great to see you using these. Please do share with us your home learning adventures throughout the week, so that we know you are accessing our remote learning. Drop into one of our mini zooms so your child can see their teachers, friends and chat about their learning. If you are having difficulty with any of this, please get in touch.

KS1 & 2

All children from Y1 to Y6 are now equipped with a school iPad that can be used at home and in school. All of the children have access to Google Classroom. This enables them to see the daily tasks, complete and hand in work. They can comment on the stream and revisit resources and videos stored in 'Classwork'. Work in school mirrors that at home. For many children, this provision is working very well. Some have had teething problems and we have been able to solve most of these over phone calls this week. A few children are still to settle into routine - we will be in touch again next week if we feel you may need some more support.

Headteacher - Mr S.George

PRESCOT COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MARYVILLE ROAD PRESCOT MERSEYSIDE L34 2TA

T: 0151 432 7100 E:admin@prescotprimary.org.uk W: www.prescotprimary.org.uk T:
@prescotprimary



Some further guidance:

- The DfE recommends that your child learns for approx 3-4 hours per day.
- Go to Google Classroom everyday. Read the task instructions and read again.
- KS1 are sending completed work back via the 'Hand in' button. KS2 have been asked to add screenshots of work to their own Google Slides presentation. This will enable you, your child and the teacher to access their work all in one place. We understand that some children are finding this hard to do at present. We will hopefully get any issues sorted next week. Use the 'Hand in' tool for now.
- Teachers will give feedback in different ways - either by comments on Google Classroom or on Google Slides (KS2). They may give whole class feedback on Zoom or on a pre-recorded video. **Please remember that teachers may not be able to feed back immediately or individually;** whilst we try our best, time and staffing may be limited for a variety of reasons.
- Please feel free to email or comment at any time - teachers will respond during the working day. Please do not expect replies during the evening or at weekends.
- Children can comment on the class stream; they can congratulate each other and ask their teacher questions. We want to avoid this stream being used for social chats as it is then difficult for the teachers to spot important messages.
- Weekly assembly videos will be posted to celebrate achievements and reflect on the week.
- Weekly Oracy Challenges will be posted on Twitter for everyone to join in with.
- Keep reading! KS2 can discuss their progress on Accelerated Reader with Mrs Molloy on Google Classroom. Your child can show you their profile and targets on their iPad. Don't forget the myOn digital library of over 6000 books. Children can quiz on many of these books too. KS2 children have a target of reading for 30 minutes per day. Please try to encourage this at home. If you have a problem accessing books, please do ask.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Encourage your child to join the Zoom meetings. These will help to motivate and engage your child; they will enjoy seeing their classmates and gain feedback for any work already completed. Don't worry if your child can't join every Zoom. Invites will be sent via Google Classroom or Evidence Me. Children from Y1 to 6 have the Zoom app on their iPads.

Some things to remember:

- Sometimes there may be technical hitches - don't worry about them. Let us know if you need help.
- Try to give your child some quiet space to listen and join in.
- Dress appropriately. No nightwear please.

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- Zooms are for the purposes of connecting with your children. Please do not record them for your own social media feeds. Please respect our teachers' privacy.

KEY WORKER PROVISION

Although school is much quieter than normal, we still have a lovely, purposeful atmosphere in classrooms. Whilst we recognise how difficult home learning can be - and how much our children enjoy school - we want to repeat the guidance: **if there is an adult at home, children should stay at home - even if you are working from home.**

- Please book your child's key worker place by 11am every Thursday for the following week. Should your requirement be the same days each week during this 3rd lockdown, then please let us know and we will try to avoid chasing you!
- Please notify, by email, any changes to your requirements.
- Please notify by email if your child is absent due to sickness.
- On the days your child is at home, they should continue with their home learning as it progresses across the week.
- Please bring iPads into school fully charged.
- Please remember to 'top up' your child's meal account if they are having a school dinner. Please advise by email if there are any changes to your child's usual meal choice.
- If you require a Key Worker place, please email with the preferred days and proof of your key worker status and we will contact you to discuss further.
- The email address for any of the above is admin@prescotprimary.org.uk

MASKS

As the transmission of COVID increases, we would like to offer our older children the choice of wearing a mask in school.

Children in Y5 and Y6 can **choose** to wear a mask but:

- It must be labelled with their name.
- It must be washed or changed daily.
- Children must be responsible for their own masks, eg, they must not leave it on desks, swap masks with others or lose them.
- We reserve the right to stop a child wearing a mask if the above conditions are not met.

We do believe the measures we have in place already are robust. This is an added option that we are introducing that is completely **OPTIONAL**.

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TRAINEE TEACHERS

The DfE have encouraged schools to continue to accommodate trainee teachers who need to complete placements and we have always been highly committed to supporting the teachers of the future.

We will therefore be welcoming some new faces to our teams. Trainees must have two negative tests before joining the team and they will stay within their own class bubble in school. Mr Burrowes will return to Y6, Mrs Mendez will join Y5, Miss Flanagan in Y3, Miss Kenwright in Y2 and Miss Devonald will join the EYFS team. Our trainees will eventually teach the group in class as well as planning and feeding back on home learning tasks. Class teachers will remain in their own class bubbles and will work alongside our trainees.

OXFORD OWL BOOKS

Oxford Owl are selling many ebooks for 99p through their website with a link to Amazon. This runs until the middle of Feb. They offer all the popular authors. They also offer lots of their Reading Scheme books, such as Biff and Chip etc. for free. www.oxfordowl.co.uk

After one full week of home learning and/or attending our school provision, we just wanted to say another word of thanks, our school community has been brilliant.

Please be kind to yourselves, (this applies to our staff too!)

You are not miracle workers and some days will certainly be different from others. Celebrate the days when everything has gone to plan. On the days when technology lets you down or everyone needs the computer, when nobody eats their lunch, the washing piles up or the dog has chewed a favourite toy - forget Google Classroom and take everyone out for a walk!

Our teachers have spent years learning their profession and they will still tell you that it absolutely does not go right every time. We too are on a huge learning journey and we need to be patient and appreciate how far we have come.

As always we will get through this together, with mutual support, kindness and understanding.

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Have a peaceful and safe weekend,

Mr George and Mrs Seddon

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