

8.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers

Message from Mrs Rawlins – Friday update

We have reached the end of this rather rollercoaster week, and thankfully, eSchools seems to be coping much more calmly with the additional usage!

Huge numbers of you have enabled your child(ren) to log on to eSchools this week, which is great. Do let us know if we can help or support; but remember that it is all very early days! There will be teething problems with technology, and with each of us trying to get grips with remote learning.

The Government has been quite prescriptive about its expectations for remote learning, and we are working hard to see how we can make the whole experience as workable as possible. Please remember right now that the most important thing for your family is to stay safe and well, and I know that lots of engagement with the learning on eSchools is going on already. However, yesterday afternoon, the DfE issued new guidance about the amount of remote learning expected daily, increasing the expectation from 3 to 4 hours for children in KS2. This really illustrates the ever-changing situation we are all in.

This is the latest guidance: The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:

- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day

So here are a few key points in relation to the remote learning offer from our school:

- Teachers will be providing 1 hour of English, 1 hour of Maths and 1 hour of another subject or topic daily. If you then include some reading time, plus TT Rockstars for children from Y2-6, and also a bit of physical activity (PE with Joe Wicks starts again on Monday!), you can see how the time could be covered. I will continue to add an assembly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to the 'Mrs Rawlins' assembly' group page, and we will continue to look at creative and practical suggestions which could help.
- Of course, it is not as simple as the guidance might suggest: several children in the family needing to access online content, parents and carers working from home whilst also having to support remote learning, technology being unreliable... you get the idea!
- We must remember that what we all have in common, at the heart of what we are all trying to do, is the learning, happiness and wellbeing of our children – let's not underestimate how important it is that we are trying to work together to that end.
- Please do get in touch if we can help; we will do our best. If you need a password reminder for eSchools etc, please email the school office. You can also email the office to forward any questions to me, or email me directly at drawlins@arbury.cambs.sch.uk.

Wishing you a restful weekend. Stay safe.

Best wishes

Diane Rawlins, Deputy Headteacher