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Headteacher

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Deputy Head

Dear Parents,

Once again we find ourselves in a national lockdown; although there is a glimmer light at the end of the tunnel this time with the vaccination programme being rolled out.

If they have not done so already, class teachers will be in touch to provide details of how home learning will operate. As previously, we will be using the SeeSaw online platform for learning (and via email and WeCollect for Kindergarten) and Zoom for class/group meetings. I have attached some guidance and user agreements for reference about the expectations for the children's engagement with their home learning.

Parents

We appreciate that this is a stressful time for all parents and supporting your child in their home learning presents an additional dimension to the challenges we are all facing personally and professionally. We have had very short notice to mobilise for home learning and it may take a couple of days for systems and routines to settle down for families - do not worry if things don't go according to plan straight away! Please do contact your child's teacher if you experience any issues with the way in which our remote learning is working. If there are issues, please bear with us whilst we try to resolve them remotely.

Online Learning – Transition-FIV

We are in the very fortunate position that we are able to use our SeeSaw Class App as the main online platform for Trans-FIV to set work. Children in these classes are familiar with SeeSaw Class, which can be accessed on most tablet devices or via a web address (<https://app.seesaw.me/>) on a PC. Each day, staff will post activities in SeeSaw Class for the children to complete at home. Sometimes, these activities will be completed electronically but sometimes they will be completed on paper to reduce screen time. These activities will be supported by a communication each morning setting out the day's instructions from the class teacher.

Although the children use SeeSaw Class on a regular basis, and understand how to log-in, access their work and return it to the teacher, we are conscious that some parents new to school may not know how it functions. We have uploaded a video tutorial and created a user guide for parents which can be accessed via a Home Learning link on the 'Our Day' tab of the school website (<http://www.froebelian.com/our-day/froebelian-home-learning>) where you can also find instructions for downloading 'SeeSaw Class' (<https://web.seesaw.me/platforms>).

Children have been provided with personal log-in information which has been stuck in their planners (Juniors) or purple books (Trans/Rem). If the log-in details get lost, please contact your child's class teacher and they will be able to supply new log-in details.

Devices to support Home Learning

Thank to everyone who came to school this afternoon to collect an iPad. All iPads sent home have been logged on our asset register with the child's name attached.

Any family who is taking a school iPad for the first time will be required to read and sign an iPad Acceptable Use Agreement. Given our short timeframe to distribute the iPads, we request that parents and children complete and sign the agreement (which can be found in the bag you collected today), photograph it and send this back on email to Mrs Towers (n.towers@froebelian.co.uk) so we can record your acceptance of the agreement. Many of you will have signed this agreement before and you **do not** need to sign it again if this is the case.

Online Safety

Whilst the children are accessing or conducting any learning from home via the internet, a parent needs to be present in the room to ensure the children are safe whilst online. In school, we have strict firewalls and monitoring systems in place to safeguard children from accessing or being sent unsuitable content. We cannot guarantee your child's safety online when they are learning at home.

I would like to draw your attention to our Online Safety Policy ([click here](#)) and also to our Froebelian Internet Safety Guide page on the Parent Portal of the school website for advice about keeping your children safe online.

Home Learning Work Packs - Kindergarten

Children in Kindergarten do not work on SeeSaw and we have provided a work pack for the class instead which you should have now received. Miss Sibson will send additional work via email or WeCollect for the children to complete.

Continuity of Pastoral Care

We will be using 'Zoom' for daily video conferencing. This enable teachers to reach their whole class each day and essentially lead a live session for the children. We will offer this at a set time each day so that you will be able to make sure the children are prepared and ready for this. Class teachers may video-conference with the whole class or with smaller groups of children (minimum of five per session).

Remote Learning Requirements

We are conscious that parents may be working from home themselves and that children may need to work with greater independence.

As part of Remote Learning, there will be minimum daily requirements for each child, set in an age appropriate manner by each class teacher.

These will include:

- one English activity
- one Maths activity

In addition, class and/or subject teachers will set:

- one or two activities – to encompass other subject areas

Each pupil's class teacher will explain the specific expectations for their own class on a daily basis via email.

Feedback

Transition-FIV

Work will be marked and feedback provided in the same way as it would in school using the SeeSaw platform. Where work is completed on paper, on a worksheet or in an exercise book, the children will need to photograph their work and upload it to SeeSaw for marking. This is a practice with which they should all be familiar.

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Miss Sibson will adopt her own method of feeding back to parents and children as they will not be using SeeSaw.

The Remote Learning School Day

Our remote learning school will be open from 8:30am-4:00pm. During this time, staff will be available remotely to set work for the children via SeeSaw/email, give feedback on returned work, conduct video conferences and respond to any emails from parents. Staff have been asked not to respond to emails outside of these times so please allow time for a reply to be sent.

Children are expected to be engaged in learning activities each school day but the time they spend learning may vary and we appreciate the need for flexibility to work around family life at home. The children will also need to take regular breaks for food and exercise and have their usual down time just as they would do in school.

If your child is unable to engage in their remote learning/video conference because they are unwell or if there are technological issues, please let the class teacher know so they can keep track of the children's learning.

Communication

We will maintain on-going communication with families during this period of enforced closure and will let you know when we have been given permission from the government to reopen.

I thank you all most sincerely for your kind messages of support and for your patience and understanding. I hope that everyone is able to maintain good health in the forthcoming weeks.

Yours, as ever,

Mrs Catherine Dodds

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