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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Remote Learning

During the course of the last two weeks, much of our time in school has been spent reviewing our approach to remote learning. We understand the difficulties that remote learning will have brought for many families. We also greatly appreciate that some families have chosen to access remote learning despite being able to accept a 'critical worker' place for their child. Currently, we have 66 children accessing sessions in school, which is 44% of our school population.

We have been working on ways to strengthen and improve our remote learning offer. Thank you to all those parents who took the time to complete the survey issued last week asking for your views on this subject. The replies received, as well as a number of very constructive conversations with parents, have helped us to formulate our response. We are currently making changes which we hope will help families in the coming days and weeks.

From the parental feedback received, we are looking to make changes in the 3 areas listed below.

- To help our children working at home still feel part of their Aycliffe Village family.
- To fulfil the government's recommendations for remote learning of 3 hours per day for Key Stage 1 and 4 hours per day for Key Stage 2
- To increase the children's engagement and independence by using videos to improve the quality of instructions sent with tasks.

We aim to achieve these aims by:

- Introducing a Google classroom for reception pupils (Willow Class) in addition to Tapestry so they can also be involved in Google Meet events, including celebration assemblies.
- Having a consistent approach to how the daily tasks are set out across all classes from Year 1-6 so that it is easy for parents to follow a set timetable.
- Uploading the upcoming work in advance (by Friday evening) to allow parents to organise their time and resources effectively for the week ahead.
- Asking for work to be **'turned in'** via Google classrooms so that it can be monitored by all the teachers attached to that class. Instructions on how to do will be shared by all classes by Friday 15th January.
- Understanding that 'turn in' times for work may be outside the normal school day as many parents / carers are juggling remote learning with their own work commitments or younger children.
- A photograph 'turned in' (returned via Google Classroom) of an activity.
- Teachers sending feedback on work via Google Classroom.

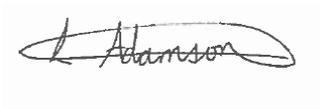
- Staff making welfare calls to pupils who are learning from home full time.
- Providing dedicated time during the school day for teachers to respond to messages regarding home learning and give feedback through Google classrooms if they are also teaching in school.
- Introducing weekly Google Meet activities to help maintain the links between home learners and their friends and teachers in school.
- Introducing 'remote' school assemblies to celebrate work together both in school and at home. Certificates will be posted for those children working at home.
- Increasing the use of pre-recorded lesson instructions/introductions using a blend of teacher recorded videos, YouTube, Oak National Academy etc.
- Providing some paper based resources on request which will be available for collection to complement or replace some online tasks.

I understand that there will be no method that will suit every family in our school community. Our aim remains to provide the resources to help every child currently learning from home, to continue their education in a way that is achievable, age appropriate and does not put additional pressure on families during what is already a very difficult time. We are also committed to delivering the same curriculum to our children who are learning remotely and those being taught in school.

The alterations that we are planning to introduce will, no doubt, evolve over time as circumstances demand, but I hope you see these changes as an improvement on our current offer.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Adamson', enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Mrs L Adamson
Headteacher