



Headteacher: Mrs Alex Evans
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Headteacher Update 18th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

You've been fantastic! Week 2 finished - the weather has been a wash out but your children's post on Seesaw haven't been! Teachers have been very impressed with the quality and quantity of Seesaw posts - teachers have been kept busy responding to work posted, queries and preparing videos.

I am attaching the updated guidance on our remote learning which will also be on our website www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk. Our school approach to 'home learning' has been to do a mixture of live and recorded sessions as we believe it is the quality of our interactions with your child as opposed to the quantity. Videos allow children to re-watch and replay lessons and we can answer queries via Seesaw, email or a phone call.

You may have already been contacted by telephone last week as teaching assistants have been doing 'check-ins' with you and your child. Some staff are working remotely so if you get a caller withheld number this maybe from our staff. This is an opportunity to say what's working well but also any difficulties you may be having, we can't support or put in place extra help, unless you tell us, equally we are not miracle workers but staff genuinely want to support and help your child, so please engage with these calls.

Last week was the first full week of remote learning for the whole school and staff have worked hard to ensure that your child is connecting with them and their work, some children will be contacted more frequently by our teaching assistants going forward as your child has been identified as needing additional support to help them engage in their remote learning.

We will also contact you more often if you are not posting on Seesaw, as we need not only to check that your child is engaging but what we can do to help remotely. If you need help with the Internet, extra data or devices please tell the staff and we may be able to help out.

Hopefully, the consignment of devices from the Department of Education will be with us soon. These devices will be sent in the first instance to families the school has already identified as needing support with technology and are only loaned for this lockdown period and will then need to be returned to school.

Of course the ideal is that we have everyone back in school but with over 86,000 deaths from Covid in the country and the infection rate in Letchworth East going above 700 last week, we all need to be extremely careful, if we all stick to the rules we'll be back into school more quickly.



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As I said in my last update we are running a waiting list for places which we will review every week. Please can I ask critical worker parents who have a place already to only send in their child in on their working days (if they are working part time) this is to free up spaces for additional children and also to think about whether you really need the space, as we can only accommodate so many children. However, we will expect your child to engage in the remote learning on the days they are not in school so the sequence of learning when they are in school is continuous, we will try where we can to review the work if they have had difficulty but we are not operating with full staff to minimise adult contacts in school so we do not have the capacity to give your child lots of over learning but will check that they have completed and understood their work.

Every update from now on will have some top tips in - my personal one is to set the day up like a school day - you can relax a bit but have breakfast get into different clothes - a change of clothes is a change of mind-set and mood - this is not a holiday - you and your child may both have work - so set the tone, we have an expectation that they will do their learning, so you can do your work. We have provided approximately 4 hours of learning a day - it's entirely up to you how you organise your day but many year groups have provided a timetable to help you and where you can please let your child access the Monday zoom sessions so teachers can talk them through expectations for the week .

If your child has a birthday over the next few weeks a birthday badge will be in the box in entrance area with their name on it and they get a mention in our Friday assemblies. So please pop in to get your child's badge. If your child is also mentioned for their home learning on a Friday assembly they will also get a Head teachers badge which will be in the box too.

Star Seesaw posts this week comes from: Luke C and Emily P in Y3 and Ayesha also in Y3 for her lovely handwriting and writing in class.

Speaking of technology if you do have old laptops or tablets gathering dust then please donate them as part of the BBC's reuse technology fit for use for school; where they are refurbished and then sent out to families to keep for their remote learning - you can send your devices into school and we will take them to the nearest drop off to save you making a non-essential journey and then we'll have more devices at our disposal.

The Governments FSM Voucher Scheme will start next week, if you are eligible for Free School Meals then you should receive an email for EdenRed each week during this half term, please follow the link to choose your supermarket of choice. If your child is in school then you will not receive vouchers, this will be supported instead through providing a school meal. During half term the FSM voucher scheme is supported by the local authority and the link from them will be the same as at Christmas. Please look out for these, and remember to check you junk mail.



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St Paul's church are again running Messy Church @ Home. Please join St Paul's Church, Letchworth from your home. For children 18mths to 12yrs. On Sunday 31st Jan 2021, on Zoom from 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

Sign up here - <https://stpaulsletchworth.co.uk/whats-on/>

If you have any questions contact Fiona Owen here - fiona.owen@stpaulsletchworth.co.uk

This morning, some pupils seemed to have had difficulty joining the zoom Monday morning assembly at 9.05am. For future reference the zoom ID link will be the same each week as below but each new assembly has a new password which will be sent separately for security reasons.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77624128910?pwd=bmZRRmRsdW5HV1JubVY2N2hVb2dSZz09>

Meeting ID: 776 2412 8910

Well done to all those who persevered this morning!! Don't worry though if you missed it, a recording is done and will be sent via SeeSaw as a vimeo link to watch when convenient.

I hope to see many more of you at assembly next week.

Take Care

Mrs Alex Evans
Headteacher