

## Head of School's Introduction

I'm really proud once again to be leading a school in which our children, parents/carers and staff are so resilient in the face of strange times. This week has been very stressful for us all I'm sure, with the immediate nature of the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday needing such a quick turnaround for our staff and for you at home in order to ensure the education of the children in our care. However, we believe that we are in a fantastic position to deliver a quality education to both our home learners and key worker children and I must say a huge thank you to our staff for their work on this.

Thank you as well to those of you who have offered such wonderfully kind words and support over the past week too. We pass on every comment we get to our staff and these words in such times are really appreciated.

Next week sees us starting Google Check Ins (see below) which will hopefully bring some even more needed normality to the lives of our home learners. Please engage with these as best as you can as we would love to see as many children as possible on these video calls. We miss them in school and seeing them each day is something we'd love to be able to do even if it is for a short amount of time.

Have a great weekend and I'll see you, albeit via a pre-recorded video assembly, on Monday morning.

Mr White

## Weekly News

### NEW: Character Awards/Assembly

Due to the current circumstances we find ourselves in, it will be increasingly difficult to award our Character Awards over the weeks during lockdown. This, however, will not stop me delivering an assembly on Word of the Week every Monday. These assemblies will be available for your child to watch every Monday morning and I encourage that you try to incorporate the meaning behind each word throughout the week please.

## New: Home Learning

Many thanks to those of you who have given us such lovely feedback on our home learning offer so far. Your words have really meant a lot to the staff who have created these and also let us know that we are doing exactly the right thing in supporting our children away from school.

I mentioned yesterday about Chromebook distribution to those who are struggling to access Google Classroom. We will contact you as soon as possible to let you know if we are able to do this. With the amount of children in school increasing since the last lockdown, we find ourselves in the position of not having as many Chromebooks to distribute to families as we did last time. We will endeavour to support you however we can though so please bear with us.

In the meantime, I encourage you, if you have one, to try and use a console to login to Google Classroom. This is a really good alternative to a Chromebook and really easy to set up. Please see below for how to do this on PS4 and Xbox One. Pair these with an inexpensive mouse and keyboard from Amazon and you're in an even better position to access everything you need.

 <b>XBOX</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Go to Home Menu</li><li>2. Select <i>My Games and Apps</i></li><li>3. Scroll down to <i>Apps</i></li><li>4. Go to <i>Microsoft Edge</i> application</li><li>5. Type in a search for <i>Google Classroom</i></li><li>6. Select <i>Go to Classroom</i></li><li>7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.</li></ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Turn on PS4</li><li>2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to <i>Library</i></li><li>3. Select <i>Library</i> application</li><li>4. Within the library use the search bar to type in <i>Internet</i></li><li>5. Select the <i>Internet Browser</i> app</li><li>6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search</li><li>7. Once on the internet, type in the search box <i>Google Classroom</i> and select the first link that comes up: <i>Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below</i> <a href="https://edu.google.com/product/s/classroom">https://edu.google.com/product/s/classroom</a></li><li>8. Select <i>Go to Classroom</i>. Then log in using student email and password.</li></ol>
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## New: Google Check Ins

From Monday, and during this lockdown period, in order to keep the children engaged in their learning, and maintain a sense of normality, we will be holding “check-in” sessions twice a day for children, initially in Years 3 to 6, through the Google Classroom, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, which will be short live sessions with the teacher over Google Meets. The morning meeting will begin at 9.00am, and the afternoon session will be at 1.00pm. These will be approximately 20 minutes, and will be a great opportunity for the teacher to go through the plan for the day with the children, and address any concerns that may have arisen from the previous day’s learning. More importantly, it is a way for the children to see each other, and their class teacher, regularly, which can be vital for the children’s well-being.

In order for these sessions to run smoothly, we ask that parents:

- help their child to set up the meeting, 5 minutes BEFORE the time that the meeting is scheduled to start. If they arrive after the start time, unfortunately they may be unable to join the meeting;
- ensure all other family members are appropriately dressed and out of camera shot and do not contribute to the video call.
- ensure that Cameras/ Webcams will be turned on.

Furthermore:

- Children must be dressed appropriately.
- Children will be muted on the discussion, by their teacher, and should not unmute themselves.
- For GDPR reasons, please ensure that no recording or photography can take place during this meeting.
- We suggest that the meeting takes place in a quiet space in a shared part of the house (i.e. not bedrooms or bathrooms).
- Any issues or concerns about any work, please add the comment to the work on the Google Classroom. Add the comment to the specific piece of work, rather than on the Classroom Stream.

### *Joining the Meeting*

The meeting will be set up as an assignment, in the same way as all other work is created. To join the Google Meeting, find the assignment on your child’s Classroom Stream as usual. Open it, then click on the link to the meeting (the same way that you would access any assignment). Then click “Join Meeting”. If the teacher is not yet on the meeting, you will need to wait to be admitted. If you have any problems accessing the meetings, please contact your class teacher in the usual way.

## New: Children’s Wellbeing

We realise that, whilst at home, the structure of the day can potentially be very different to that at school. We therefore advise that you stick to a school day routine as best as you can. This means getting up at the same time as you would, starting and ending the school day at the same time and having breaks regularly throughout the day. Teachers will advise pupils each week on when to do their lessons and for how long through timetables posted on the Friday before the following week. We advise that you stick to these, particularly the structure of the day and the allocated times for each lesson. In school, pupils will do roughly one hour of maths and one hour of literacy per day, along with half an hour of reading, a half an hour of grammar/spelling and an afternoon of mixed topic work, PE and online activities such as TTRS etc. Try not to exceed these times where you can as this can cause unnecessary stress.

## New: Your Wellbeing

We talk about children’s wellbeing a lot but we must also focus on your wellbeing through these times as particularly, like my staff, you have both your own families and working lives to juggle at the same time. Please don’t feel the pressure of needing to stick regimentally to the pattern of the day if you find that it is causing your child, and yourselves, excess stress. Our advice would be that if you do get to the point where this is



happening, stop the work you are doing with your child and have a break from it. As I also mentioned in the previous section, please don't push the work beyond the timings we advise. Do what you can within the time allocated.

## **New: Technical difficulties/Home working issues**

As always, if you have any problems technically or relating to work set, contact either the office email or your teacher directly. If it is urgent, please ring the school.

## **New: Free School Meals**

We know that some families circumstances will change during lockdown. If you think you might be entitled to Free School Meals because of your family income, please go to the following link <http://www.york.gov.uk/schoolmeals> .

## **Regular Updates Telling School about Covid related symptoms**

Just a reminder that it is still relevant for you to let school know if you or your child has any Covid related symptoms. Please do so by either emailing the office or ringing the school to inform us.