

29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to remote learning, I know how hard this must be. As a parent myself, I understand and empathise with just how much of a strain this recent lockdown is putting on people, on families, and our community – you are not alone.

VIDEO FEED NOW AVAILABLE VIA MS TEAMS

In a bid to support social interaction between school staff and children, and interactions between other children, as of **Monday 1st February**, live meetings with your computer camera switched on will be an option.

If your child's device has a camera, they will be able to turn on their video feed for the meeting. We have created a [short video](#) that we would encourage you to watch with your child, so that you can be sure they know how they have control of their camera, and how to switch it on and switch it off.

As learning is inherently a social process, we want to ensure we give our children all the tools they need to interact and learn successfully. We will be encouraging our children to use the video feed as part of the learning process, as well as for their digital skill development, however it is not compulsory that they have it on or indeed keep it on for the whole of the live experience.

We have asked teachers to give instructions to children about when to turn the cameras off, for example if a part of the lesson is being recorded then cameras will be switched off.

If at any time you as the parent/carer are uncomfortable with the camera on, we fully support you in switching it off. In addition, if at any time the teacher feels a student is causing disruption with their camera, they will be removed from the lesson.

This new change will promote inclusivity, propel engagement and motivation, as well as encourage the class community feeling that we are all missing.

CHANGES TO LESSON TIMES

As a school we are keen to listen to feedback from parents/carers and teaching staff therefore from **Monday 1st February** the school day will be structured as follows:

- Registration 8:30-8:50am
- Period 1 9:00-10:30am
- Period 2 10:50-12:30pm
- Period 3 1:05-2:45pm

A 10-minute break between registration and P1 has been provided to support student wellbeing. Please encourage your child to use this time to have a break away from the screen and to prepare themselves for their day. With these breaks incorporated into the school day your child will still experience the recommended 5 hours per day by the Department for Education.

1. Students should choose a dedicated workspace - dedicate a specific room or surface in their home to work.

2. Get everything they need in one place, before they start lessons – chargers, pens, paper, calculator, water, and anything else they might need.

For student wellbeing, during periods 2 and 3 we are encouraging teachers to provide students a 5-minute break in the lesson, this is an opportunity for students to stretch their legs, get a drink and have a short time away from their screens. The time of this break is up to the individual teacher.

As always, I am grateful for your support, and should you have any further questions please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Smith
Principal

CAMERA-ON TIPS

If you choose to have your child's camera on for lessons, please bear in mind the following guidance that we will be sharing regularly with your child:

Live Lesson Etiquette

Make sure you're sat somewhere you won't be disturbed.

Find a quiet space near a family member (not your bedroom).

Keep your microphone & camera off until asked to do so.

Blur your background when your camera is on (if your device allows).

Be mindful that everyone can hear & see those around you.

Make sure you are appropriately dressed. NOT in your pyjamas!

Hands up or use the chat if you want to ask a question.

Remember, staff are monitoring & will issue consequences for poor conduct.

Show respect at all times & do not share your lesson link.

Seek help from a trusted adult if you need it.