

Sambourne CE Primary School

Newsletter

15th January 2021

Hello everyone,

Week 2 of lockdown and remote learning! I hope your children are all able to access the learning on our website, have started to access Google Classroom and have joined a 'live lesson'. We've been really excited to see your children either at school or via the computer screen.

Did you know that children can access Google Classroom through an Xbox or Play Station? The devices have an 'Apps' feature where the internet can be accessed and through there, Google Classroom can be found. A keyboard can be plugged into the USB port and children have the same capability as a laptop or PC. Who knew these gaming devices would prove so useful!?

Everyone's worked hard this week and we all deserve a weekend's rest.

Take care,

Mr Allen

Remote Learning

The government have issued information on remote learning. Here's a link: <u>What should remote education look like? - Education in the media (blog.gov.uk)</u> Here's a poster from Wiltshire Council:



Letter to parents from Helean Hughes (Director of Education and Skills at Wiltshire Council)

Wiltshire Council

14th January 2021

County Hall Bythesea Road Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 8JN

Dear parents,

Hello, my name is Helean Hughes and I'm Director of Education and Skills at Wiltshire Council.

Alongside my team I work closely with our schools to provide them with support to continue educating Wiltshire pupils during these extraordinary times.

I would like to thank you for everything you are doing to ensure your child continues to learn, and for your ongoing support for your child's school – this will continue to be so important.

Your school will already have contacted you regarding remote education at home. Schools have had to turn this around very quickly and are working hard to ensure that pupils can still progress and have the support they need to continue their learning.

As with any school curriculum, this will look different according to the school, the children and circumstances. Each school has a different set of IT provision, skills, and training. The government has set out guidelines for good practice in remote education and says that live lessons are one method, alongside recorded remote learning, that is effective for pupils.

Your school will have developed a curriculum balancing provision of remote learning alongside teaching those children who are still attending school as they are children of critical workers or vulnerable pupils. Many schools are starting with remote recorded teaching; providing links to pre-recorded sessions such as BBC Live or the Oak National Academy, supplemented with other paper-based tasks. Please talk to your child's teacher if you have any queries about your child's remote education but be assured that they want to provide the best education so your child can thrive and progress.

Home learning makes us all feel we should do more to support our child in their lessons. There is support available, including our Family and Community Learning Courses, to help your child with subjects such as English and Maths. Some of the free courses can be accessed in the evenings as well. All you need is access to a tablet, laptop or smartphone with WIFI to log in online. You can find out more by visiting the website, or by

🖲 wiltshire.gov.uk

@WiltshireCouncil



emailing <u>familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk</u>. I've also attached a poster with some top tips on helping with remote learning, which I hope you will find useful.

I would also like to share with you a plea from Wiltshire Council and our schools to follow government guidance on whether your child should attend school if you are a critical worker. Government guidance states: "Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can."

If you are a critical worker but your child can learn at home, please can we ask they remain at home and access remote learning. This will help free up places in schools and help to keep numbers low.

Currently our schools are much busier than they were during the first lockdown, with almost the same numbers in some primary schools as there were in June when a number of year groups were able to attend. Our schools are open for vulnerable children and it is important that they attend, in addition to children of critical workers. We would ask those parents who are classed as critical workers, but who can keep their child at home to access remote education, to please do so. Schools that need to will be prioritising places for NHS and health workers, social care and those who work in the education sector.

We are working closely with our schools to ensure our disadvantaged families can access laptops. We've invested £1.1m of our government funding to purchase approximately 2,500 laptops for disadvantaged families. Schools have been allocated a funding amount to buy digital devices that meet the requirements for their pupils. Meanwhile, if you are in a household where there is only one device for a number of siblings, you can use Xbox and Playstation devices to access Zoom and Microsoft Teams. More detail on how to do this is <u>here</u>.

We do post a lot of information online, so please have a look at our FAQs on the council website. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook to see the latest news affecting our area.

Finally, thank you once again for everything you are doing to help your child continue in their education – we know it isn't easy and we know it's not ideal, but by working together we are going to be stronger and make this work.

Yours sincerely,

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Helean Hughes Director of Education and Skills Wiltshire Council

🗐 wiltshire.gov.uk



Terrific Times Tables

We're really keen that children keep on learning their times tables during this lockdown. We have the Times Table Rockstars online resource that every has access to, and IXL maths also has times table learning activities.

If you would like to help your children more with learning times tables then you may want to join this online course.

Family and Community Learning

Terrific Times Tables Online

19 January 2021 10:00-12:00





Email: Familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk Website: Workwiltshire.co.uk/family-learning/ Call: 01225 770478

Courses are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Learners must be 19+, have been resident in the UK for three or more years or be a service family member, have less than 5 GCSE's A-C and or be in receipt of benefits including tax credits/universal credits/child benefit or be unemployed. If you do not feel you fit within the criteria, we still may be able to help so please call if you have any questions.

Mrs Sainsbury

Tracey is leaving us today. We are sad to see her go. We would like to thank Tracey for all her hard work and dedication and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Thomas will take on the responsibilities in the office.

Twitter

The school now has a Twitter account (@sambourneschool). We will use this account to celebrate learning. Please give us a follow. For safeguarding and security reasons, the reply function will be disabled.

Look After Yourselves

Here's a link to a document that offers help and advice. It's important in these times to understand how we feel and to have things we all can do to keep ourselves mentally and physically healthy.

COVID-19 - Looking After yourself 5 January.pdf

Cold weather

Winter is here so can you please ensure that children wear a coat to school and, if possible, a scarf and gloves, to keep them warm.

Continued Care and Consideration at this time

We talk to the children a lot about being considerate of others. As lockdown progresses, it can lead to increasing worries about staying safe and healthy. We can't know everyone's situations and level of worry so it's important to keep to guidelines that do not worry others further.

Please could you be considerate to everyone when you drop off and collect children: respect social distancing, respect how we have set up our system to minimise contacts and wear a mask at all times on school grounds.

Thank you.

Daily Hot Meals

We are able to provide a hot meal for children who will be attending school this term. All children in Key Stage 1, and those children eligible for free school meals in Key Stage 2, will be given a hot meal every day. This may not be as advertised on the menu, but will be an appropriate alternative. Please let the office know as soon as possible if your child does not require a meal.

Children in Key Stage 2 who do not fall into this category also have the choice to purchase a hot meal for £2.80 per day. Please continue to order via ParentPay.

https://www.parentpay.com/

Free School Meal Vouchers

We are issuing FSM vouchers to eligible children not attending school this term. We have notified families that these are ready to collect from school.

If you think your circumstances have changed and your child may be eligible, please apply using the link below.

https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1669/Free-school-meals





Attendance

Even though the school is only open to children of key workers and those that are vulnerable, we will still need to know if your child is ill. Please contact the school office if your child is ill, as this will be marked as an absence on the register.

Celebration Assembly and Collective Worship

Todays's celebration assembly was broadcast live on Google Classroom. The powerpoint is available to view on the front page of the school website and through the children's Google Classroom.

We will be broadcasting collective worship live from next week.

Covid-19



