



The Drive Primary School

Mrs R Farren
Acting Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE10 0PY
Tel: (0191) 421 0390
www.thedriveprimary.org



Tuesday 19th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carer,

Remote Learning

Staff have worked hard to ensure that our remote learning provision was up and running immediately. All children should now have received a work pack and other resources (Early Years). Each class teacher is setting daily and weekly timetables with supporting lessons and resources. Once again, we are asking for parents to support children with the important task of learning at home. Thank you to all those parents and carers who have done a magnificent job of supporting remote learning so far, keep going! Staff are available daily to support any families who are struggling to complete tasks at home, offering support and advice, and are calling parents and carers of children who look like they may be struggling or have requested a call weekly.

We are continually updating and reviewing our remote learning, respecting also suggestions from parents and carers. Staff are starting to upload recorded videos (using You Tube when the file is too big - links sent via Purple Mash) and voice over PowerPoints to support learning at home. Some of you are struggling with windows documents (not able to open them). Every day we are learning of new ways to send these documents (this is new to us too) and always appreciate constructive feedback from yourselves. We also recognise how much the children miss each other and the staff so we will be setting up live sessions with the teachers and children, starting with a live assembly next Monday (wish me luck). The following actions for this new aspect of Remote Learning/live get togethers will include:



- We are now allowed to use Zoom and are in the process of unblocking this on our systems at school.
- Your child/children's class teacher/myself will send your child a link to a Zoom call via Purple Mash (I will be calling on some children to test this out this week to ensure it works), including the day and time of this zoom call.
- The calls will be on different days to avoid sibling clashes.

This will require parents and children to adhere to a set of protocols and procedures (see next page). Please be patient while we get everything set up as I know many of you are aware, technology isn't always our friend - my assemblies for example, but we always get there in the end. Every day is a school day, even for teachers.

Wherever possible, children who are working remotely at home will receive the same curriculum as children being taught in school.





The Drive Primary School

Mrs R Farren
Acting Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE10 0PY
Tel: (0191) 421 0390
www.thedriveprimary.org



Everyone should now be aware of how to contact their class teacher and how work is set. Staff are monitoring remote learning, marking and giving feedback on tasks completed as appropriate. However, please be mindful that staff are teaching in school while also supporting remote learning and will respond as soon as possible.

As always, we are here to help in any way we can. If you need support with remote learning, please use the following email:

Reception/Nursery - Mrs Jackson, Mrs Martin, Miss Grant and Mrs Robson - drivereception@gatedu.org/drivenursery@gatedu.org

Year One - Miss Walters, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Tate - driveyear1@gatedu.org

Year Two - Miss Forbes and Mrs Baker - driveyear2@gatedu.org

Year Three - Mrs McCartney and Miss Johnson - driveyear3@gatedu.org

Year Four - Mrs Graham, Ms Brand and Mrs Wilson - driveyear4@gatedu.org

Year Five - Mrs Cuthbertson and Mrs Gallagher - driveyear5@gatedu.org

Year Six - Miss Butler and Mrs Wilson - driveyear6@gatedu.org

Live Sessions - Student Protocols

Below are some things that are necessary when you are participating in virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

- Students and teachers will not interact 1-1; **Teachers will only communicate via webcam during group live lessons.**
- Students must ensure they are wearing appropriate clothing (this also includes any family members who may be in the background)
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms or with backgrounds blurred.
- Language must be appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Staff and students will only use Zoom for live sessions. A link and password will be sent to your child via their Purple Mash Email. Other platforms will not be used.
- **If you don't want your child to be visible in these live sessions, please do not turn the camera on.**
-

An adapted behaviour policy will apply for online sessions. (Please see below)

Warning - If students are disrupting others, a warning will be given

Second Warning - Students will be muted during live session.

Third Warning - Student will be removed from live session and will not be allowed to re-join. Teacher will then contact home.





The Drive Primary School

Mrs R Farren
Acting Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE10 0PY
Tel: (0191) 421 0390
www.thedriveprimary.org



Screen Time and Staying Safe

Many of us are spending more time on screen nowadays, due to remote learning, working from home and staying at home. While some of this is unavoidable, it is important that this is managed safely. An eye health charity is recommending people learn the "20-20-20" rule to protect their sight. Fight for Sight advises looking at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds, every 20 minutes you look at a screen.

In addition, it is important that children are safe while online. There are several useful websites for parents and carers with advice on staying safe online:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

As always, we are here if you need us (ALL OF YOU).

Please stay safe, look after each other and your mental health!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Farren

Acting Head Teacher

