



14 January 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

Very well done to everyone for working so hard and making it through last week, your first week of home learning this year. We are all helping in this fight against COVID by following the restrictions and staying at home.

We understand the pressures at home for parents and want to reassure you, you are doing a fantastic job. It is not an easy thing to manage the demands of home life and organising the children with their learning. Thank you for encouraging home learning and creating a bit of normality and routine for your children. Also, please encourage independence with tasks as far as possible as this would be encouraged in school.

Schools continue to be required by the Department of Education to submit **attendance data** for pupils. There are codes which must be completed by schools and are a legal requirement on schools. The Department has asked that each school record evidence of home learning via the attendance codes and as a school we recognise that the home/remote learning may not be as easy for parents as the Department or the Minister think it is.

The Department has 3 main codes at this time:

- Pupils at home and ENGAGING with home learning;
- Pupils at home and NOT ENGAGING with home learning;
- Pupils in school within the Key Worker/Vulnerable Pupil Care Provision.

Fortunately, our online platform, Purple Mash helps to inform the teaching staff if the activities and messages for each day have been opened and read. This will indicate to staff that pupils have accessed their set tasks. The staff can see if tasks have been completed and they are able to offer feedback on the activities. It is vital that the home learning packs are collected tomorrow as this will also provide an indicator of engagement with the activities.

Please endeavour to submit evidence of the tasks for the day that your child's class teacher requests, and this will help staff code the attendance correctly for the Department.

You will not have to send evidence for every task - just when the teacher says he/she would like certain work handed in or uploaded (Purple Mash). Keep an eye on the class webpage this should give you information about what needs to be handed in.

The most important thing in this remote learning process is keeping in touch with the teachers and letting them know of any issues or problems you might be having. Teachers will attempt to make contact, by telephone, w/c Monday 18th January for a quick check in.

Remember to take regular breaks throughout the day and encourage daily exercise. Joe Wicks is back on line on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and if you can, try and continue to get the children out for their Daily Mile. It is not reasonable for primary children to sit at home for 4 to 5 hours doing school work. We know these are challenging times for everyone, but hope that soon we will see you all back in school safe and well.

Keep Safe – Stay Home

Best regards,
A Armstrong.