



Thursday 14th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Home Learning Update

I'd like to thank you for your continued support as you continue to juggle home learning and everyday life. It was so lovely to see so many of you on last Friday's Zoom. I was so relieved to hear that many of you had found it useful. We don't want to inundate you with lots of information but we will be making some tweaks to our home learning provision and this is just a catch-up letter.

The first thing I would like to reiterate is that we understand that every one of our families are juggling a unique set of circumstances. We are hopefully giving you the tools you need to enable your child to learn from home but you are then able to interpret these and make them work for your family. I firmly believe that there is no one size fits all for this. You have to do what is right for your own family and your circumstances.

Home Learning Packs

If you have ordered a home learning pack, these will be available to collect from outside the **Junior School reception**, accessed off Herons Way, on **Friday 15th January**. To enable social distancing we are allocating families set times.

9-11am: Pupil Surnames A-H

11-1pm: Pupil Surnames I-Q

1-3pm: Pupil Surnames R-Z

Families collect their pack from tables positioned undercover, outside the PDJ reception. Please wear a mask and respect social distancing. If you have any queries, please ring the office rather than coming into the building. We want to avoid a lot of people suddenly entering the school buildings. Siblings packs will be organised together. Packs will be placed in a named cardboard folder but you might still want to bring a bag to pop them in, especially if you are picking up several packs. Our thanks go to Appleprint who have supported us by printing these packs. The packs are currently for pupils in Year 1 to 6. We are still considering what would be helpful to support Foundation Stage pupils with their learning.

Home Learning from Monday 18th January

Foundation Stage children will continue to use **Tapestry**. We understand that there were some technical issues earlier this week. We hope that the site is running more smoothly now. **For pupils in Years 1 to 6, we will continue to upload our home learning weekly** onto the website on the same template with links that you can click on. The home learning continues to reflect what is being taught in school. The spring term projects are the work set until February half term. Please continue to use the year group emails to ask questions and send in work for feedback.

Feedback on Home Learning

Foundation Stage children will continue to receive feedback via **Tapestry**. We ask that you **upload at least one piece** of work or post each week so we can give you and your child feedback. We ask pupils in **Years 1 to 6** to upload **at least one piece of English, maths or topic work a week for detailed feedback**. These can be emailed into the year group emails. You are welcome to send in more and we will acknowledge this but won't provide detailed feedback on more than one piece. Please continue to collate your topic home learning and your child can bring it in after lockdown and we will mark it. Parents and staff can award **gems** for work and teachers in years 3 to 6 can award **merit marks** for the piece of feedback work.

Supporting families with limited technology

We have finally been able to order a small number of laptops from the DfE. We have used the access to technology survey we sent out in the autumn term to prioritise families with no access to devices. We have also been made aware of other organisations that can support us to access technology. Please do let us know if you are struggling with technology at home and we will do our best to support.

Support with printing

We will continue to print maths worksheets. If you have ordered a home learning pack you will have been given maths worksheets (and answers) for the week beginning 18th and 25th January. We are very happy to continue with this. We have also been approached by another local printing firm who have offered a click and collect service for families who need support with printing home learning. If you email them the work you would like printed along with:

The name of the school

Your surname

The year group your child is in

You will be able to collect it from their offices in Thatcham within the hour.

The contact email is: admin@imagethroughquality.com.

Making connections with pupils at home

Maintaining connection with our pupils at home is really important to us and will be increasingly important as time moves on. Parsons Down is a community and we want to continue that ethos even though we can't physically be together. What we can offer will evolve over time.

We will continue to publish a **weekly newsletter each Friday**. Families can continue to email in work, photos and questions through the year group email addresses. We'd

really like to reinstate our week in pictures page and children in school and at home can be included. Please email any photos into the year group email addresses by 12 noon each Thursday and we will do our best to include as many as we can.

We will be relaunching **weekly assemblies for pupils at home**. Each Friday, starting from 15th January, I will upload a pre-recorded weekly celebration assembly (including birthdays) to the website. **From Monday 18th January, we are also going to introduce a Monday class assembly via Zoom**. The link for this assembly will be on the Home Learning Plan from Monday 18th January. This week it will be a short story time and it may not take the whole session. We have different times for each year group to help you manage your day and access to technology.

Foundation Stage	11-11.30am
Year 1	10.30-11am
Year 2	11.30-12pm
Year 3	1.30-2.00pm
Year 4	10.00-10.30am
Year 5	2.30-3.00pm
Year 6	12-12.30pm

In order to keep everyone safe there are a set of protocols that we ask you to agree to. These are attached to this letter and it is essential that everybody agrees to and understands these protocols so everybody is safe online.

West Berkshire Virtual School Games

West Berkshire Virtual Games has restarted. It is open to all pupils across the Partnership whether at home or school. It is aimed for pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2. Foundation Stage pupils may find it a bit trickier and we can't submit scores but they are very welcome to take part. The way it works is that we will publish an instructional video for each challenge. Pupils then do the challenge and we will then need to collect the scores. They can practice and they only need to submit their highest score. It is this part that we need help with. We are looking for a parent volunteer from each year group who would be willing to share their email address and is familiar with using Excel. Their role would be to collate scores for each challenge and email Mrs. Hoskins our PE lead with the results so we can enter into the competition. If you would like to find out more about what this would involve or to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Hoskins via the Year 4 email address.

And finally, thank you for everything you are doing to support your child at home. We are looking at providing more Zoom sessions to support you. We don't underestimate what you are trying to juggle. We will continue to reflect, review and refine our home learning and we will be in regular contact.

With our very best wishes to you all,

Mrs Catherine Bull
Headteacher
Parsons Down Partnership