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7th January 2021



Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year,



Thank you for your patience and understanding after the unexpected start to the new term. This is not what we were hoping for and we received no information in advance of Boris Johnson's Monday briefing.



As always, teachers spent their Christmas holiday planning for face to face learning within school. The provision we will now need to provide will be slightly different as we will need to educate both children in school and at home. The expectation from the Department of Education is that Primary Schools need to provide a minimum of 3 hours learning per day and that of this learning, the core work will be equivalent to the English and Maths teaching pupils would receive in school. This does not mean pupils will receive 'live learning'



At Yorkley we will be setting daily tasks through Class Dojo and weekly tasks linked to all other curriculum areas. This was very successful before and allowed children to share the learning they were doing, back on the platform.



As a school we recognise, having learnt from the first lockdown experience, that the pressure on online services causes additional issues for families during this time, therefore we have also made sure that the activities we have planned include a mix of online and offline tasks so that can fit in alongside your own work patterns. My staff will be in touch via Class Dojo and phone calls to check how your child is getting on with their learning.



Regarding children's mental health, one of the things we picked up on last time were how isolated children were feeling. To support further with this, a member of staff and I will be trialling Class Zoom check-in. This allows us to see the children and they themselves get to see their friends! On page 2 of this letter is an expectation checklist I'd like families to follow. This way the children stay safe and the sessions are more successful.



Keeping children safe online when they are using technology remains a high priority for all of us. Please be reassured that when we have suggested online platforms to support your child at home, we have fully considered your child's safety. If you have any concerns or questions the guidance below has some excellent advice.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools>
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
<https://parentinfo.org/>
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>



As always, should you have any concerns or questions, please contact us via the admin email, admin@yorkley.gloucs.sch.uk. We will continue to support all our families the best way we possibly can.

Best wishes

Mrs K.Burke
Headteacher

Zoom Meetings:

Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows multiple users to have a meeting online.

Before you can be part of a zoom meeting you will need to install Zoom on your computer, device, smart phone. It's important that your device has a camera and a microphone.

You can sign up for free.

We are still learning about this tool and it was very useful for communicating with our classes last term. However, as with all online tools, we have to be careful.

Each meeting we hold will last roughly between 15 – 30 minutes.

You will receive a log in code to join the meeting. You might be kept in a waiting room, so we can monitor who participates.

Here are a few things we expect when you are using zoom.

- Make sure your parents know you are Zooming.
- Try and be on time to the meeting.
- Remember everyone can see you.
- Find a quiet place at home to do your Zoom.
- Try to keep away from siblings – especially if much younger as they may want to join in and cause a distraction.
- Try and keep background noise to a minimum.
- Take turns in speaking – we can 'mute' you if needed.
- Make sure you are fully clothed. (No pj's)
- Be respectful – be careful in what you say.
- Do not take photos, screenshots or make recordings of the session.
- Please be patient if things go wrong. This way of communicating is new to us also.

As a school we hold email addresses for most parents on your Data Collection sheets. If you would like your child to be part of a Zoom and we haven't already got this information, please send this information to school this week.