



**THE ROOKERIES
CARLETON**

JUNIOR, INFANT
& NURSERY SCHOOL

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have completed our first full week of remote and face to face learning and I am delighted with the children's application and work ethic. You, as parents and carers, have also played a huge part in the early success of our online and in school learning offer. Thank you, as always, for supporting your school and the staff who are working so hard to provide your children with some semblance of normality during this lockdown period.

I genuinely understand the pressures you face at home to get your children online, to make sure their work is completed and submitted, and to communicate with class teachers; and where necessary school leaders. Everybody at our school is 'with you all the way' and will support you in whatever way we can to make life easier during these challenging times. The attendance this week to online learning sessions has been outstanding, and one of the best in the Trust! Please continue to support your children in attending these planned lessons.

In my communication with you all in the run up to Christmas I highlighted my expectations and fundamental beliefs to be:

- Children come first.
- All staff will support the children, and their families, to maximise their potential and remove barriers to learning wherever possible.
- A school should be a hub of excellence in a community and all parents/carers will play their part in supporting school initiatives.

This has not changed despite the current situation. We all have a role to play to navigate this pandemic, and as a community we will succeed.

I have asked all staff to keep communicating with you, and your children at home, to make sure that they are staying safe and accessing the work we have provided. In the current climate being 'on line' at home is how we are registering children's daily attendance in the first instance. However, we fully understand that there may be times when this is not possible. If there are days where it is not possible to have your child/children online, please let the teachers or school leaders know. Children can still submit work via ClassDojo to show us they have engaged with the learning activities.

Teachers are also keeping a record of work submission.

I am sure you understand that we have a statutory duty to educate your children, to make sure they are accessing learning and staying safe at home. I am also sure you are aware that the local authority is not fining parents for not attending remote learning sessions. Rest assured that fining is not going to happen, although that is no excuse for children not to be online.

School staff understand that these are unprecedented times, and everyone is just trying their best to adapt. We will continue to tweak our learning offer, both in school and remotely, over the next few weeks to make life easier for you all. In the meantime, our staff will continue to communicate with you and please feel free to do the same with us. I have thoroughly enjoyed talking to parents/carers this week.

Remote Learning Summary Points

- Make sure your child/children are ready in good time for their lesson
- Ensure the device your child uses to attend remotely is fully charged.
- You have the right links ready to click on or manually type into your browser.
- Contact the school if there are ANY problems relating to remote learning. The average resolution to remote learning issues when dealt directly with the school was less than 10 minutes.
- Please make sure your camera is switched on so that the teacher can identify who is attending the session.
- Please make sure your microphone is muted so that the teacher can communicate with the class clearly.
- All work completed is submitted onto class Dojo for the teacher to mark and direct further learning.



If you continue to struggle to access the remote learning lessons, please do not hesitate to ring the school and we will be on hand to 'walk you through' the process and provide additional support if you need it.

You need to be reassured that school are here to help you wherever we can, and not just in dealing with issues relating to remote learning. We have additional learning and support packages for families that may help them cope with the emotional and well being aspects of being at home. Just contact the school on admin@rookeries.patrust.org.uk if you wish to talk to someone.

Home Support and Homework

The learning journey of each child is more successful with a productive partnership between home and school. You can help by:

- Listening to your child read at least 4 times a week. Ask questions about what you have read together, can they retrieve and use information they have just read?
- Help them with their timetables and the fundamentals of adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying numbers.
- Ensure they complete their homework or spellings they may have to learn each week.
- Discuss what they are learning in school – is there any way they can continue to learn topics at home in more depth?
- Communicating directly with their teachers via ClassDojo
- Requesting further support from the school via admin@rookeries.patrust.org.uk.

We appreciate all the support you can provide at home! All the above is not compulsory but advisory depending on your personal circumstances.

Free School Meals

The Trust has recognised that collecting hampers from school was not an ideal solution and have been reviewing alternative methods of providing food to children who are entitled to a free school meal. From next week you will be receiving a supermarket voucher, by email, to the value of £15 per child. You will be provided with a £30 supermarket voucher every 2 weeks for each child who is entitled to FSM. I sincerely hope this makes things easier for you in the forthcoming weeks.

The supermarkets where vouchers can be redeemed include;

- Aldi
- Asda
- Morrisons
- M&S
- Sainsburys
- Tesco
- Waitrose

You will receive a voucher code from selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk by email. Should you experience any issues receiving the code please contact the school on admin@rookeries.patrust.org.uk

Online Learning Week Commencing 18 January

The weekly timetable packs, with resources for learning activities, will be provided to you in the following manner:

- ClassDojo
- School Website
- Parent Mail

The links to the live learning lessons with class teachers will be provided to you via:

- ClassDojo
- Parent Mail

We will ensure once again that these are easy to access via 'single clicks links' or 'tinyurls' that can be typed into your browser search bar.

You can access the live learning sessions through all of the following devices;

- PC/standalone computer
- Laptop
- Mobile Phone
- Play Station
- X-Box
- Nintendo Switch
- iPad

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing live learning through your electronic device, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school. Some parents have indicated that using keyboards with games consoles has helped navigate learning packs more efficiently. If you would like to speak to the school about arranging for us to provide you with a keyboard, please get in touch on admin@rookeries.patrust.org.uk

Over the course of next week, we will be sending you more resources to support home learning. In the meantime, if you require any additional writing materials, pens, pencils etc. please feel free to contact the school office and we will arrange for those to be collected or sent home.

Finally, paper copies of the learning packs will be available from school reception for collection. We will contact you on ClassDojo and via text to notify you all once these are ready.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Richard Grogan
Headteacher