

Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

A small school, learning together in the local community

15th January 2021

Dear parent/ carer,

I hope that you are all now adjusting to the new restrictions and keeping each other safe. Thank you to you all for coping with the stress and uncertainty that last week brought and for the many positive comments of support we have received in school. Staff have worked tirelessly to set things up quickly and to answer queries as they go. We know things aren't perfect yet, but are working hard to improve things over this half term. It has been a week of bleak news and we have tried our best to keep pupils in school and at home upbeat and happy through a package of remote learning designed to inspire and motivate. At Lydford Primary, we want to continue to nurture, inspire and for your child to achieve, even in this uncertain climate.

The guidance is to **stay at home** if you can - nobody wants to put anyone at extra risk. Only the children of critical workers and vulnerable children can access school *if school has the capacity* - we are keeping children distanced and safe as well as looking after our staff. For more information please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>.

Remote learning guidance

Thank you for persevering with our package of home learning. At Lydford, teachers are busy making up weekly learning packs to compliment your child's learning and make things structured and accessible. Please do let us know if there is anything additional that will help you at home. Please continue to ask for extra help/ guidance if you need to. We want to make your home learning experience as smooth as it can possibly be and understand that lots of us are juggling work, running a home and our children's education. Staff are here to help. The message will always be 'do what you can', take regular breaks outdoors for your wellbeing and stay positive!

Please find attached some guidance on **READING** during remote learning from the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation). There are some key ideas to help your child progress in reading such as - listen and encourage, taking turns to make predictions and recapping to check understanding.

I am also attaching a '*planning the day*' template that may be of use at home. Research tells us that setting a clear structure is key to successful home learning. Taking regular exercise and drinking water, giving praise to your child - all of these things will add to a positive day. Have a go using this template next week and let us know how you get on through Class Dojo. Have a go!

Accessing remote learning

If you are having difficulty accessing remote learning then please get in contact with the school office. We may be able to supply you with a chrome book for use at home to make accessibility easier. This can be challenging if siblings are sharing a device for example. We will try to support you in any way we can.

The DfE have produced some guidance on what remote education should look like for parents:

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/what-should-remote-education-look-like-how-can-your-child-learn-remotely-if-you-dont-have-a-laptop-we-answer-your-remote-learning-questions/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Schools can now request help to increase mobile data allowances for children and young people who: • do not have fixed broadband at home • cannot afford additional data for their devices • are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers. If you think either of these options would help you with remote learning please email admin@lydford-primary.devon.sch.uk to register your interest.

Zoom guidance

This week I have sent out some safeguarding guidance on using Zoom for a virtual 'catch up'. Please ensure that you have read and understood this guidance. Thank you for your ongoing support.

School Meals - Norse

Hot school meals are available each day for critical worker and vulnerable pupils - these are cooked at Bridestowe Primary and delivered in a take away box. These are available to all children accessing school provision - orders as usual on School Gateway.

Finally, we want to do all we can to build on our children's wellbeing and learning. We hope that, together, we can do this and help our children to flourish. Please look after yourselves and each other.

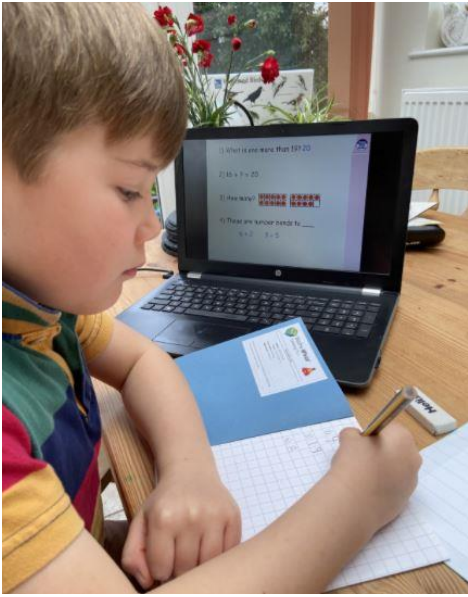
Kindest regards,



Mrs D A Petersen



Gallery



Bertie working on number bonds



Charlotte enjoying some ice



Massan studying maths



Wren's mountain collage



Cosmic Yoga time in school



Lunchtime fun

Advice for parents of SEN children

It's safe to say that we are living in uncertain times again. We are currently advised to stay at home and, for many of us, educating our children at home is a somewhat new experience. Children with SEN often require teaching to be adapted in order for them to access the curriculum so I thought I'd compile some basic tips to help you navigate the days ahead.

- If you are able to do nothing else, focus on the basics: reading, writing and maths.
- Game-based learning helps children to engage in their learning without you needing a teaching degree. Sites like Nessy (reading/spelling), Times Tables Rock Stars, Easi-maths or Maths Frame (<https://mathsframe.co.uk>) are all useful. Sit alongside them to act as a guide and give praise often (praise the effort, not the outcome!).
- Keep sessions short with frequent breaks (these could be quick movement breaks, a game of rock, paper, scissors or eye-spy, etc).
- Build in plenty of repetition and revision (but not necessarily delivered the same way every time).
- It's OK to sometimes scribe for them or let them dictate their work into a device if writing is a struggle.
- Make Maths practical: play 'shops', monopoly, do some baking (if you can buy flour!), etc.
- Project-based work is accessible for all children and creative tasks are really rewarding.
- Watching an episode of Blue Planet or Horrible Histories can help you widen the curriculum without you needing to become an expert on the Victorians – sit with them and talk about what you're watching.
- Stick to a routine (important for a lot of SEN kids especially in the current situation). • Build in plenty of physical activity during the day. Joe Wicks is presenting a PE lesson every morning at 9am on YouTube. See if you can keep up with your children!
- Think about awarding 'merits' for good effort, independent learning, neat handwriting, not annoying your sister, etc. Most of all, if you manage to cover some of the basics every day, you'll help your child keep the learning 'habit'.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Steve Williams
SENDCo