



# Ivy Lane School

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Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Lockdown and Remote Learning

First of all, I hope all of our Ivy Lane families are safe and well, and beginning to adjust to our new way of life for the next few months. The announcement on Monday evening will have created a lot of anxiety, worry, upset, confusion and anger – I know as both a parent and Headteacher, I felt all of these. The late notice and ever changing guidance that schools have received the past few days, has created many logistical challenges, in particular organising the critical worker and vulnerable children provision. Schools nationally have been inundated with requests for places and the average attendance is at least 25% of the school population still attending school. Once again, our staff have been asked to continue to provide support for these children, despite the Government 'stay at home order' to stay safe.

Thank you for your patience whilst we have navigated our way through this and while we finalise our remote learning. For the past few days, teachers have used our platform Seesaw, to set blended learning challenges, directing children to complete passport learning and other resources. Going forward from next week, the learning set and expectations will be different.

The Department for Education have set out very clear guidance for schools in the delivery of remote education, (this was updated again only yesterday afternoon). It states that:

- 'Schools have a duty to provide remote education for state-funded, school-age children whose attendance would be contrary to government guidance or law around coronavirus (COVID-19).'
- 'The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments **independently**. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:
  - • Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
  - • Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day
- To clarify, this means the learning set with videos/supporting resources would take this time to complete across the day.
- 'Online video lessons do not necessarily need to be recorded by teaching staff at the School'. As a school, we will be using pre-recorded videos by the class teachers that might introduce a lesson, explain and model a key concept or writing. This would then allow our families to select an appropriate time to view this and the children would also be able to view again, if they needed to, in order to support their learning.
- 'Set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects.'



We have put together guidance for all our parents and carers about what to expect from remote education if local restrictions require the whole school, entire cohorts (or bubbles) or individual children to remain at home. This information is also intended to provide clarity and transparency, so you all know what to expect. It sets out the systems and technology that staff will use to keep the learning experience going for children, and details how they can be used effectively and safely, while allowing for the differing needs of families.

You will see that due to national lockdown and announcement that schools will only remain open to vulnerable children and those of critical workers, we have now moved to **'circumstance 2'** in our remote learning guidance. This gives you a breakdown of what to expect on a daily basis for your children. Where possible, it is beneficial for the children to maintain a regular and familiar routine. Ivy Lane would recommend that each 'school day' maintains structure as we know that this hugely benefits our children. Therefore, learning will be set within this time. We cannot replicate school at home, however, we will do all we can to provide the children with a rich and varied curriculum. Please read through the guidance carefully.

If a child still does not have access to a computer/laptop and/or the internet, then please contact the school office. The school will do all it can to support our children. Where funding can be accessed, remote devices (e.g. laptops) and/or 4G connections will be sought, particularly for disadvantaged children.

We appreciate that some families will not be able to engage with the full range of tasks due to their own family circumstances, and in this case suggest they focus on key learning priorities to try to reduce the impact on children's core Maths and English skills.

If you have any questions or concerns with regards your child's learning, then please use Seesaw as a way of communication. Anything related to the organisation of the school, provision for critical worker/vulnerable children and remote learning etc., then please use the [admin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk) email address to raise your questions.

Thank you once again for your understanding. I will be in touch with the children via Seesaw at the start of next week. In the meantime, please continue to support your children with their learning. I know there will be ups and downs each day. Be kind to yourselves and take it one step at a time. We will all be back together at Ivy Lane very soon.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs H Lammin



Head of School

