

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience as we work out the details of our onsite and remote learning provision. The Lower School will be open to children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils from Monday 11th January. All other pupils will receive remote learning from Monday. We have worked closely as a department to develop a plan that we feel will best serve our pupils, and hopefully support you as parents as best we can.

### **Onsite Provision**

We are getting in touch with all families that have parents who are critical workers or have children who are deemed to be vulnerable. We will have two main onsite bubbles, with children from class 1-4 combined together, and class 5 & 6 having some lessons separately and some combined. More information/timetables will follow.

### **Remote Learning Plan**

The guiding principles behind what we have developed have been formed from the experiences and feedback from staff, parents and children during the last national lockdown period, and, although learning remotely is a far cry from the kind of learning that we typically strive for at our school, we have continued to assess every decision made in terms of the experience for the child, with a recognition of individual needs and their phase of development.

The plans that we will be sharing over the coming days are by no means set in stone and will be kept under constant review. Our teachers will be keeping in touch about how your child is doing.

Guiding Principle for our Remote Learning Provision:

- We strive for a simple and coherent approach, with clear daily and weekly rhythms, which will be set out in a class timetable
- We aim to provide a balance of activities and lessons across different subject areas
- There will be a short focus each day on literacy and numeracy practice to help ensure that skills in these areas are maintained
- We wish to prioritise the support of parent and children's mental health and wellbeing; class teachers will make time for weekly check ins with each family
- We understand that some parents will be working from home and that it is not always helpful or possible for parents to assume the role of 'teacher'. We have therefore opted for an approach which will involve daily live sessions for the different classes whereby teachers can provide direct input. Working from our own teachers' experiences and of our colleagues at sister Steiner Waldorf schools, these will be carefully planned, engaging and active, and designed to limit screen time. Work will be planned to be child-led and should be able to be completed largely independently (though this may vary!) Even though there will be live teaching, these will work to inspire hands on activities and experiential learning.

- There will be an expectation of work being shared with/returned to teachers, within given timescales. This setup will look a little different moving up through the school. It is incredibly important for teachers to be able to understand how the children are interacting with the learning material, to assess progress and learning and inform their future planning.
- SEND support will continue both onsite and remotely - your class teacher and Charli will be in touch to confirm arrangements.

The main digital platforms we will be using will be Zoom and Google Classroom. All children will need access to a device which can run these programs. We have tried wherever possible to avoid clashes for online lessons for siblings, please get in touch if problems arise for your family in this regard. Clear instructions for access/ logging on will be shared before Monday. If you have any questions regarding access or require any technical support please contact the school on the reception email.

Class teachers will be in touch with further information/timetables.

Please do get in touch (either with your class teacher or you can contact me via email) if you have any questions, need further clarification on anything.

The local situation shows a continued rise in covid-19 cases, and we will be maintaining a robust system of preventative measures in school to help limit the possible spread of infection. Please remember, your child must not attend school if they are displaying any signs of covid-19. You need to inform the school immediately if symptoms arise, organise a test and self-isolate in line with government guidance. We also ask that you inform the school of any symptoms, even if your child is not accessing learning onsite, as we are required to report this information to the DfE.

Despite the challenges and the split between onsite and remote learning, we hope that together we can continue to support one another as a school community. If you are struggling, please do get in touch and we can work together to try and find support and solutions. Under the national lockdown guidance there are situations where some families may be eligible to form exclusive childcare or support bubbles (more information can be found [here](#)). Please do explore this if it could be a support for your family.

Wishing everyone all the very best at this time and a good start to the new term.

Warm wishes  
Sarah

On behalf of the Lower School teaching team