



The Colleton Primary School

Spring Term 2021 - Briefing 1

Dear Families,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year. I hope that however you spent Christmas that you managed to enjoy some good quality time with your immediate family; it is certainly one we will not forget in a hurry! This really is not the beginning of term or new year that any of us hoped for especially after such a positive autumn term in school. I would like to thank you for all your emails and messages of support and flexibility over the past few days regarding changes to arrangements.

I do not underestimate the pressure and anxiety that these will have placed on you as families and on us as a school community. We have tried our best to balance the needs of those who should be accommodated in school as well as ensuring that we move rapidly to provide a remote learning offering to those who have to remain at home.

Never before has there been such a real need to demonstrate our values; in particular our resilience to cope with and adjust to changes in terms of the demands and expectations placed on us as individuals, and to manage these last-minute changes with positivity and kindness in the face of external pressure and uncertainty.

Children in School

Yesterday we welcomed 60 vulnerable and keyworker children into school. These children were organised into small year group bubbles within their teams and were taught the same content as was available via Microsoft Teams for those children who have been asked to stay at home.

The children in school are those who either have at least one keyworker parent and cannot be supported with their learning at home or have an Educational Health Care Plan which requires them to be supported in school. The government guidance recommends that if your child can be cared for at home this is currently the best place for them to be. It is therefore crucial that only children who need to be in school each day are registered to attend this provision and only on the days where this is the case. If you need to request this support or alter your request in any way please contact us via admin@colleton.wokingham.sch.uk. Currently we have been able to offer places for all eligible requests but it may be that further prioritization criteria will need to be used if demand cannot be supported by current staffing levels.

Remote Learning Provision

Our provision for remote learning has altered since the last lockdown. Rather than access learning resources via Colleton Community children have been provided with individual login's to Microsoft teams which means that they then can join their own reg group team where they are able to access learning resources including: PowerPoints, worksheets and video explanations. They also have individual folders to upload any assignments set, a chat function to ask teachers questions about their learning and timetabled pastoral check in sessions. The first of these sessions took place yesterday.

This new use of the technology will be a steep learning curve for many of us so please be patient and do reach out via the team email addresses if you are experiencing any difficulties and we will do our best to support you. If you are still to provide permission for your child to access Teams via this route please make sure you do this as soon as possible so that your child can access and engage fully with the learning resources we are offering.

Availability of Devices and connectivity

I know that for some families access to devices or connectivity to data may be a barrier to accessing remote learning resources. Mrs Neale is busy arranging loans of available school equipment for some of our families who have made these needs known. It is worth noting that Microsoft Teams and therefore our remote learning offering can be accessed via Xbox and PlayStation consoles which may ease the situation particularly for those families with multiple siblings and parents working from home needing to access devices.

The Government are also starting to roll out a scheme for Primary Schools to provide support with additional devices although this is not up and running as yet. We are also awaiting some sim cards from Vodafone that we hope to be able to offer to families that need support with connectivity.

Another avenue for support has also been announced by the Government today whereby Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases 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

Children with access to a mobile phone on networks such as Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile and Sky Mobile might be able to benefit:

If you are experiencing **any** barriers to support your children to access learning resources please contact myself or Mrs Neale via the office and we will do our best to support you.

Wokingham United Charities is also offering support for families struggling to afford equipment to support remote learning and can be contacted directly via Citizens Advice Wokingham on 0300 330 1189.

Additional Learning Resources

Similar to the last time when schools were partially open during lockdown, lots of organisations are starting to promote and offer additional resources.

- The BBC is to deliver the biggest education offer in its history across more of its platforms. From Monday January 11th, CBBC channel will feature three-hours of primary school shows to ensure that all kids can watch programming if they don't have the internet.
- Joe Wicks also resumes his live PE/fitness sessions starting next Monday at 9am. These will also be offered on Wednesday and Friday.

The school nursing advice line has a new number!

The School Nursing service is aware that the Coronavirus pandemic continues to be a difficult and worrying time for everyone and during this time there have been additional pressures on children, families and young people. They are there to help with advice and support regarding physical or emotional concerns.

The School Nursing advice line is available to support children, young people and their families who live in West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell; it is an easy way to reach them, is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm and can give you the advice and support you need. Call them on 0300 365 0010

Please look after yourselves and each other!

Kind regards,

Michelle Law

Headteacher