January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Remote Learning – Important Information for Parents and Carers

We have reviewed and updated our remote learning methods to provide a robust remote learning offer during this time of lockdown for those pupils learning from home. At Yewstock we offer a blended solution providing paper resources, worksheets and tasks emailed to pupils/parents whilst also making use of 'live remote learning' technologies such as Microsoft Teams.

If your child is currently participating in remote learning, you will receive detailed information from your child's class teacher about lessons, live learning sessions and other learning activities and tasks.

As a school we also we subscribe to many different learning platforms as shown below. These websites challenge children to apply the skills they have been learning in class. If you have not already received passwords needed, please contact your child's Tutor.

Mathletics:

Website address:	https://login.mathletics.com/

Reading Eggs:

Website address:	https://sso.readingeggs.com/login

White Rose Maths:

Website address:	https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/

Read Write Inc Phonics:

Film showing parents how children are taught to read and write using Read Write Inc Phonics	www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/
https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide Access to free e-books, practice sheets and other resources	

Other useful websites and learning platforms:

A list of resources and fun activities for a variety of subjects to aid learning from home	https://yewstock.dorset.sch.uk/pupil-home-learning/

Microsoft TEAMS: Live remote learning sessions with Yewstock Class Teachers

Website address:	https://teams.microsoft.com/ or use the Microsoft Teams App

The purpose of using Microsoft TEAMS for live sessions will vary according to the specific requirements of the teacher or subject. In general, we are keen to provide some live face-to-face opportunities for children to maintain a sense of them being part of a class/school and offer pupils a safe, supervised and structured opportunity to 'meet-up' in real-time with their teacher as well as share concerns and seek reassurance.

Central to this form of learning is that we do all we can to ensure a safe working environment for pupil and staff. All sessions will be led by staff who will adhere to the safeguarding guidelines issued by the school. Please ensure you have read the following safeguarding statement to ensure safe working for all:

Parents/Carers and pupils will be informed in advance of the times of live remote learning sessions.

Before the session begins, please ensure that:
- The pupil is in a public area of their house (*Ideally the pupil is not on their own in a bedroom).
- *Ideally you (parent/carer) or another appropriate adult is present in the room/in close proximity to the room for the duration of the session to monitor and ensure they are safe and using it appropriately.
- The pupil is appropriately dressed (in clothing that covers the top and bottom half of the body).
- All members of the household must be aware that the meeting is taking place and make sure they are also suitably dressed and use appropriate language and behaviour when nearby or in the background.
- Screenshots, photos or recordings of Teams meetings must not be made and the links must not be shared with others.
- Where possible, pupils wear headsets during calls to improve their listening experience and also engagement with remote learning sessions.

*We understand that for various reasons it might be difficult in reality for you to meet these recommendations. If this is the case, should the pupil or member of staff have any concerns then that would need to be reported to the school immediately to safeguard all concerned.

We will ensure that:
- No staff member will contact you or your child using Teams outside of any pre-arranged times.
- School staff will ensure appropriate security settings are in place for the meeting.
- Pupils' audio or video may be muted until appropriate and they may be removed from the session if rules are not followed.
- Two school staff will be present throughout the video call to help safeguard all participants and monitor appropriate use, although one staff member may be on mute or off camera.
- School staff will stay in the meeting until everyone else has 'logged' off.
- School staff and any other adults on the call (or in the background) will use appropriate language / behaviour throughout the call.
- Members of the Leadership Management Team may drop unannounced into the classes to view the content. Feedback will also be sought from the parent/carer and pupil.

If for any reason you would prefer your child not to participate in live learning sessions offered by the school, please discuss this with your child's Tutor.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Christine Chadwick: c.chadwick@yewstock.dorset.sch.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Padgett
Headteacher