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22nd January 2021

## A message from Mrs. Denham

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support through strange times.

Just for your information, staff are being asked to take part in twice weekly testing, using lateral flow device testing, at home which we will be starting next week.

Please find attached the **remote learning offer** we have agreed to provide for children working at home. I hope the offer is detailed and shows how very hard staff are working to provide the best we can for your children. We know we don't always get it right with some parents say we're planning too much and others not enough - but we are trying hard to match the DfE's requirement for 4 hours per day of learning for children in Key Stage 1 (pupils in reception, Y1 and Y2) and 5 hours per day for Key stage 1 (pupils in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6).

We are phoning or individually meeting on Teams as many children as we can each week to check in and see how they are getting on. If you would like a check in, please let us know.

We are very pleased to say that 97% of the children working from home are now on Teams or Tapestry and over 75% are having consistent daily and engagement with us and completing work well. Many are ready to learn by 9am. This is wonderful. Thank you so much.

**We do have to expect children of critical workers who are not in school full time, to be completing home learning on the days they are not in school.**

We thank you so much for those children who are joining live lessons and live catch up sessions. It is just wonderful to see the children on the screen and the children in school, chatting and experiencing the same discussions, lessons and stories.

Thank you also to our amazing PTA who are still meeting and thinking of a variety of ways to organise events for you all. We are so grateful to them for their time, support and commitment.

### **Microsoft Teams**

Please can we remind all parents and children that when they join a school teams live session that you are all appropriately dressed. No pyjamas or dressing gowns please.

### **Holywell pre-school**

- In line with the new guidance, from Monday 11 January 2021 our preschool will continue to be open to **all children**, as they normally would be. Therefore, if you haven't sent your child back into pre-school as you are not a critical worker, please do so if you would like them to attend. Please book in your normal way through Mrs Palmer in the office.

### **Vodafone Sim Card**

Vodafone UK wanted to do their part to help keep children and parents connected and be able to continue learning from home during this difficult time. They have given away for free 250,000 data SIMs with 30GB of data to use for 90 days.

We requested and have been allocated a small number of Vodafone data SIM cards to give out to parents who have problems logging on to the Wi-Fi for their children to access Microsoft Teams from home. As they are limited, they will be given out on a first come first served basis.

- ❖ Vodafone data SIM to use as a Wi-Fi replacement.
- ❖ 30GB data (lasts for 90 days)
- ❖ Need a smart laptop/dongle that has a slot for a sim card or a smart phone that takes a sim card
- ❖ Need good Vodafone signal (you can use the Network Status tracker on [www.vodafone.co.uk](http://www.vodafone.co.uk))
  
- ❖ If your phone is locked to another network, you just need to contact your network provider's customer service team to request for your phone to be unlocked.
- ❖ You won't be able to use your phone to make calls/texts while using this data SIM.
- ❖ You will be able to enjoy 30GB data for 90 days this will start once you insert the SIM into your phone and start using the data.

### Spring Term

**Last day of the Spring term will be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**Half term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 inclusive**

#### Privacy Notice

The Trust has updated its Privacy Notice for parents. It is available for you to view on our website <https://www.ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

#### News from the PTA

#### Term Dates – Jan 2021 to July 2021

15 <sup>th</sup> February to 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Half Term
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 <sup>st</sup> May to 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Half Term
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2021	Last Day of Term