



# Durweston CE VA Primary School

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Head teacher: Nicola Brooke



*'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong. And do everything with love.'* 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Well did you have a nice Friday? I hope so. And I'm pretty certain most of you had a nice Sunday!

### Remote Learning

The staff used our time on Friday to discuss Remote Learning. At the moment, we are offering:

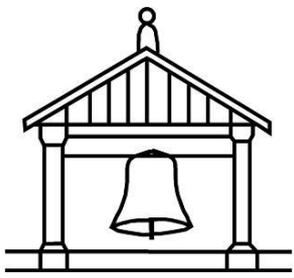
- A daily introductory Loom to run through the timetable for the day
- All tasks set on Google Classroom in one easily accessible place with all the resources the children need for the day
- A daily Google Meet for story
- Daily monitoring of Google Classroom to see if any one has asked for help
- Daily marking of English and Maths tasks and comments on much of the other work set
- Weekly monitoring of reading records in Starfish, Dolphins, and Seahorses
- Monitoring of whole class reading task in Sharks and Porpoises
- Weekly live maths session for Orcas



Although there is clearly a push from the government to provide more live on-line lessons, lack of bandwidth here means that we cannot always see the faces of all of the children, which makes purposeful interaction impossible. More importantly, the majority of staff are still in class full-time and we can't effectively integrate the teaching children in school with the teaching of children on-line. Mrs Plummer is experimenting with her Orcas maths class and everyone is offering what they can. However, we actually believe that for a lot of our teaching, pre-recorded lessons are the most effective. They can be viewed at a time that is convenient to you, and can be paused, rewind and rewatched as many times as you want or need. They are also much more reliable. Certainly, the quality of work we are receiving would suggest that this is the most effective method of remote teaching we have at the moment.

That said, we do believe that facilitating times when the children can talk with their classmates is essential, so each teacher is going to make sure they provide at least a weekly session when children can chat or play a game together.





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We also had another idea. At school, the children are used to working with a partner. The children cannot initiate a Google Meet themselves, but we wondered if parents might organise a meeting between two or three children so that they can collaborate on a piece of work. You don't have to use Google - you can use any platform you like and use the children's school email addresses to invite them. Something worth trying perhaps.

A copy of our Remote Learning policy is on the COVID 19 page of our website.

## Laptops

We have a few old staff laptops in school. Is there any parent who is able/qualified/willing to see if they are of any value/remove all data/make them available for children?

## Books at Bedtime

Yes it is that time of year again (I know because it usually coincides with my son's birthday). We're hatching a plan for the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Hope you are all managing to bear up under the strain. Mr Johnson has just announced we might be back in school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for that.

Apologies for the randomness of the newsletter at the moment. I did start this on Sunday...

Have a great 'however-long-until-I-write-the-next-installment'.



Nicola Brooke

