



Holy Name Catholic Primary School
Mosspits Lane
Fazakerley
Liverpool
L10 9LG

Tel : 0151-525-3545

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Miss F Sibert (Chair of Governors)

January Newsletter

11 January 2021

I hope that you and your families are all well and coping in these unusual times in which we find ourselves again in relation to school. Thank you for your patience and support since we came back as we have constantly had changing guidance from the Government. Please find below some points that we would like families to note in relation to the current situation.

Online Learning

By now, all children at home have received information needed to log onto the online learning platforms we are using so they should be following the timetable they have received from their teacher. Teachers have provided paper copies of work to those who have requested it. If you have asked for the paper copies, please remember to collect them from the school office.

Curriculum

Please note that when we set work for pupils for home learning, we have to abide by certain criteria set by the Department of Education (DfE). We have to follow the age-appropriate National Curriculum for children and the school's curriculum map. The DfE has made it very clear to schools that we have to provide relevant, meaningful, ambitious and challenging work. There should be no distinction between the work that is set for pupils during this lockdown than when they are attending school. We cannot approve work set by parents/carers for their children as an alternative to work set by teachers and work is set at the level that we know the children are capable of. We have to continue offering the National Curriculum; if you as parents/carers choose not to follow it that is your choice, but we cannot approve each family setting their own work.

On a similar note, teachers will monitor engagement with home learning and school will contact the families of those pupils who are not engaging with the work set for them. Please remember that it is essential for all children at home to engage with learning to prevent them falling behind even further because of the amount of time they have missed since the pandemic began. It should not be treated as an extended holiday. However, we fully understand that if you are working full time or working from home, it is difficult to support your children to complete the work at set times during the day. Please do what you can. Older children should be able to work without support. However, we also understand how important the mental health and well being is just as important so if you have any issues or worries about your child, please contact Mrs Perry.

Xbox/PlayStations

We have been informed that it may be possible to log onto some of the remote learning platforms through some PlayStation and Xbox devices. Please find attached, a guide on how to attempt this. If your children do have these devices, please do try to see if they can be used for online learning.

Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Hwb (Digital learning for Wales)

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.





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Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in: Hwb and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work through OneDrive and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Your emails

Increased Data Allowance

The DfE have announced that schools can apply on behalf of families for increased data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged pupils.

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks (Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile, O2 and Vodafone).

For each request, we need to know:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Please inform school if you wish us to make an application on your behalf.





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Device Home Loan Agreement

The Government have allocated devices to school for us to loan to pupils who do not have access to any devices when they are working from home. Priority will be given to disadvantaged families as we are limited to a small number of devices.

Parent/carer will be asked to read and sign a contract before taking home a device which states that they will be responsible for any misuse of the devices. The devices need to be returned to school once the children are allowed back. Please email school on holyname-ao@holyname.liverpool.sch.uk if your child does not have access to a device or has to share one with a sibling.

Free School Meals

Free school meal vouchers will be delivered directly by email from a company called WONDE. These should arrive on a fortnightly basis. The value of the vouchers are £15 per child per week. However, if your child is attending school, you will not be entitled to the vouchers.

PLEASE NOTE: we suspect that many more families may be entitled to free school meals than currently receive them. Families of EYFS/KS 1 families in particular may not realise that they qualify for FSM as their children already receive free school meals under the universal offer from the Government that supplies a meal to all infant pupils. Please visit the Liverpool City Council website and make an online application if you feel that you may be entitled. Only families who receive FSM on financial grounds are entitled to vouchers during lockdown/holidays.

Communicating with Parents/Carers

If you have not done so already, it would be so beneficial to school and families if parents/carers could sign up for Dojo. As well as providing online learning, it is a form of communication that we all need to use, especially at times like this when children are not in school.

There are still a few families that have not signed up for it and we are very limited in what we can say in a text message so it would be easier for you to be kept up-to-date with school developments if you were on Dojo.

We will keep you updated with any further guidance/changes that come out as soon as we get to know. Please continue to monitor Dojo and the school website. Please be assured that all staff are working as hard as possible to ensure your children are getting the best education possible in these current circumstances and remember we are all here to support you. Take care, everyone and stay safe.

