

Thursday 7th January 2021

Re: Remote and Blended Learning

Dear Parents and Carers

Before I get to the main point of this letter, I'd like to say a big **thank you** from everyone here at school for your perseverance and resilience whilst trying to get to grips with remote learning. In most classes, having dealt with a few hiccups, things are going really well.

Despite not being a parent myself, I know – for example, from the experience of my siblings who are parents, and having worked with children myself since leaving university – that lots of you are having to make tricky decisions about what to do for the best in these very unusual times, especially if you are a critical worker, or you are trying to work from home whilst supporting your children's learning at the same time.

In school, I wear many hats – but one of the most critical is that of 'Curriculum Lead'. It is my responsibility, when school is fully open, to ensure that all children – irrespective of gender, ethnicity, prior attainment, 'ability' level or family income – receive a good deal, in terms of an appropriate, balanced and interesting curriculum. This responsibility is as, if not more, important during times of upheaval, because it is at these times that vulnerabilities and differences between children can affect the learning experience of each individual child.

It is the general advice of school that any day-to-day issues with remote learning should be addressed to the class teacher via ClassDojo, as class teachers are best placed to deal with any problems as they arise.

However, if your issue is 'bigger' than the odd blip – for example, you do not have a reliable internet connection at home, and/or you do not have enough appropriate devices to access remote learning with all of your children – I would like you to contact me today or tomorrow, so that we can sort these issues out.

You can:

- email me at ricket.danks@richmond.lincs.sch.uk
- contact me via the Contact Us page on the school website
- message me directly on ClassDojo, as I am connected to every class
- call me at school on 01754 766639

Please do not be embarrassed or nervous about getting in touch. As a school, we are completely committed to getting every child fully involved in remote learning, because we do not want a single child to get left behind. I am not promising that we will be able to solve every problem that you have, but we can certainly work with you to do the best we can, as a team.

From Monday, teachers will be noting the virtual 'attendance' of each child, to identify where families might be having access difficulties. Remote learning is intended to be a comprehensive replacement for in-school learning, hence why we are asking teachers to lead lessons for all children, whether they are at home or on the school premises.

Thank you, again, for your hard work. Let's make this effort worthwhile by ensuring that the experience of every child in our school is the very best it can be. I know you will work with me, and the rest of the team here at The Richmond School, to make this happen. Please get in touch if you need to.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ricki Danks

Deputy Headteacher