



25.1.21

Dear parent/carers,

Last week was a very challenging week for the school community as we experienced positive COVID-19 cases in our year 4 bubble. Despite illness the year 4 staff team continued to do an amazing job of ensuring your children received a full week of remote learning. We are continuing to struggle with staff shortages in year 4, so for this week the in-school provision for year 4 pupils will remain closed. Please can I ask for parental patience and understanding in this matter.

Remote Learning Feedback

Last week, I shared with you a survey to give us feedback on the remote learning we have provided in the past few weeks. So far, a third of you have responded to the survey, but I am keen to give an opportunity for as many of you as possible to give your feedback. Feedback is important to us so that we can review what we offer and provide the remote learning that is right for our school community. If you have not already done so please can you spare 10 minutes to respond by following the link below. This survey will remain open until Thursday 28th January.

[Microsoft Forms](#)



Microsoft Forms

Attendance and Remote Learning

DFE guidance have stated that schools are expected to *'have systems for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern'*. I understand that for a few, you may find our communication to be too much. Please can I ask that if there is a reason your child is unable to participate in the live lessons that you communicate this with your child's class teacher on the year group emails:

Year3@meonjuniorschool.org.uk

Year4@meonjuniorschool.org.uk

Year5@meonjuniorschool.org.uk

Year6@meonjuniorschool.org.uk

We want to work closely with all our families so we can support with any barriers you have.

Covid-19 Testing update at Meon Junior School

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms, also known as asymptomatic, has started in secondary schools across the country.

Use of the new Covid-19 tests known as 'Lateral Flow Tests' (LFTs) is preferred as they are faster with sharing results – usually ready in around 30 minutes.

I am updating you now as the Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed their expectation that primary schools and maintained nursery schools should begin testing their **staff** as of week commencing Monday 25th January.

We are hoping to receive our delivery Tuesday this week and commence testing on Thursday.

In addition to our already established protective measures, testing **staff** will help us in our aim for your child/ren to learn in as safe an environment as possible.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) has been widely and successfully used to detect Covid-19 in asymptomatic individuals, and across our Trust we have already identified those who have the virus but no symptoms, with this in mind we are supportive of its introduction into our school settings.

I am confident that we will introduce LFT into our school with no impact on our current remote learning provision and am hopeful there will be little disruption to our in-school provision.

To reiterate, we are testing staff only and this is for your information.

I hope that this is helpful, and should you have any questions please contact the school office.

Parent Consultation RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy

From the summer term 2021 the Department for Education is making RSE (Relationships Sex Education) and Health Education compulsory in all schools. The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, it will give young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and will help them take responsibility for their own well-being. All of the sessions will be age-appropriate and meet the needs of all pupils in the class.

These changes mean we have been in the process of reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our provision meets the Government criteria. We have carried out staff consultations on the policy and we would now like you to take part in the parent consultation.

This week you will be sent an email from Mrs. Laura Roberts our PSHE and RSE lead. In order to take part, please read this email and the new RSE draft policy attached then complete a multiple-choice survey using Microsoft forms (this link is in the email).

VIDEO FEED NOW AVAILABLE VIA MS TEAMS

In a bid to support social interaction between school staff and children, as of **Monday 1st February**, live lessons with your computer camera switched on will be an option.

If your child's device has a camera, they will be able to turn on their video feed for the meeting. We have created a [short video](#) that we would encourage you to watch with your child, so that you can be sure they know how they have control of their camera, and how to switch it on and switch it off.

As learning is inherently a social process, we want to ensure we give our children all the tools they need to interact and learn successfully. We will be encouraging our children to use the video feed as part of the learning process, as well as for their digital skill development, however it is not compulsory that they have it on or indeed keep it on for the whole of the live experience.

We have asked teachers to give instructions to children about when to turn the cameras off, for example if a part of the lesson is being recorded then cameras will be switched off.

If at any time you as the parent/carer are uncomfortable with the camera on, we fully support you in switching it off. In addition, if at any time the teacher feels a pupil is disruptive, they will be removed from the lesson after a warning.

This new change will promote inclusivity, propel engagement and motivation, as well as encourage the class community feeling that we are all missing.

In their computer lesson tomorrow, your child will be given further information on how to use their camera safely in live lessons. Should you have any further questions please contact the school office.

As always, I am grateful for your ongoing support. This is an incredibly challenging time for everyone, and I am so proud of our school community, who are pulling together to make sure we give our children the best we can despite the current lockdown and ongoing pandemic.

Warm Regards



Mrs Sara Paine

Head teacher

