



Parent Newsletter Monday 1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Healthy Minds Day - Wednesday 3rd February 2021

We will be holding a fun day of activities and games on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 as part of Healthy Minds Day to support children's mental wellbeing. The day will be organised so that all pupils, whether at school or at home, can participate.

As part of the theme for the day, we would like pupils to wear an item of clothing 'inside out' as a reminder that how we are on the outside may not truly reflect how we are feeling on the inside. This will promote thinking about others and the showing of kindness to support one another's feelings.

Plan for the morning:

9:05am –9:25am Meon movers (extended fun version)

9:30am – 9:45am Mrs Paine's Assembly

10:00am (Approx 45mins) Fun Class **live** session

The rest of the day we will encourage screen free time with a collection of activities that your children can choose from.

We would really like to encourage you to share pictures of your children in their 'inside out' clothing enjoying the day of activities, via our office email: office@meonjuniorschool.org.uk, as we would like to post them on our school Facebook page and also show the children in school what your children at home are enjoying.

We hope that all the children will relish the opportunity to have a fun day, whilst at the same time absorbing the messages about mental health.

Teams Live Lessons – The cameras are on!

Teachers are all so excited to be able to teach lessons and see their classes. Remember your child does not have to have their camera on and can choose to do this in their own time when they are ready.

Pupils need to blur the background on Teams -

Blurring the background during live lessons is so important to maintain a level of privacy and safety. When backgrounds are blurred, it ensures that your child won't see anything inappropriate on another screen, it also removes distractions and demands focus on the person in front of them, their teacher.

To blur a background:

DURING A CALL

In a Teams meeting, click on the ellipsis to show more options, then click 'Apply background effects" to choose the blur option or a custom background.

BEFORE A CALL

Before you click 'Join Now', click on 'Background Effects' to turn on the last option selected. You can change the settings in the call"

Or follow this [helpful video](#).

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you so much for taking the time to give us some feedback on the remote learning we are providing. We had 156 responses and have been overwhelmed with the positive feedback you have given us. Particularly, on how the weekly timetable, live team lessons and work on our platform Seesaw have supported your children to maintain a routine and continue their education despite the fact they are learning remotely.

Parental Confidence:

Question	Confident/Very confident
How confident do you feel with logging on to your child's school email account?	87%
How confident do you feel with getting into Teams lessons?	92%
How confident do you feel using Teams lessons?	87%
How confident do you feel accessing work on Seesaw?	90%
I would like more training on using TEAMS/Seesaw	Yes 10% No 90%
I would like training on how to support my child at home	Yes 16% No 84%

In response to your request on areas of remote learning you would like training on and how to support your child at home we have done or will be doing the following actions:

1. A weekly computing lesson that teaches pupils current skills needed to use teams for live lessons e.g how to use the chat in lessons appropriately.
2. Further guidance on using Seesaw and how to review work.
3. We will be giving further clarification on the google drive and how this is used by some year groups to support remote learning.
4. Guidance on how to support your children to maintain engagement, work to their potential and develop their confidence.
5. Some parents who have made requests that are personal to their child will be contacted individually and given support and guidance from their class teacher.

Pupils Learning:

Statement	Agree/Strongly Agree
The online learning meets my child's needs	87%
The number of live sessions a day is reasonable	84%
The live teaching session prepares my child to complete the Seesaw work	90%
My child engages well with the live sessions	78%
The length of time to complete tasks is reasonable	81%
Communication with school helps me to support my child	91%
My child enjoys the online learning	77%
The range of subjects offered is right for my child	87%
I would be interested in 1:1 session with my child's teacher or teaching assistant	52%

The feedback on what you felt we could do to improve remote learning for you and your child is helpful in supporting us continue to develop what we offer. Some of your comments have already been taken on board and addressed. I would like to give you feedback on common areas and our planned actions. Again, there are some comments that are personal to individual children and family circumstances and we will do our best to support these families individually.

What could be improved for you and your child	School's comment/actions/solutions
Pupils at home being seen	From today the camera function is enabled.
PE slots timetabled for all year groups	This has now been actioned and all year group have PE slots.
All siblings having the same lunchtime	With over a third of pupils attending school site, we are having to stagger breaks and lunchtime to ensure safety. Unfortunately, as our teachers are teaching pupils in school and home simultaneously timetables need to match.
Too much pressure from the school to participate.	<p>Government guidance states that schools should:</p> <p><i>'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></p> <p>We send a text message if pupils miss the first session to check everything is ok. Class teachers call all families whose children have not accessed learning in a day to offer support and guidance. If your child will be absent from the remote learning e.g sickness, family circumstances please text, email the year group and therefore class teachers will not need to make contact.</p>
Opportunities for pupils to engage socially	This Wednesday we have built in a fun social session for pupils in their classes. The plan going forward it to have a Wellbeing Wednesday every fortnight to incorporate social experiences with their class. Unfortunately, we cannot replicate playtime for our pupils at home as this would mean adult supervision of all groups of pupils. I am sure you understand that to facilitate this would not be possible with the number of staff we have. We will, however, continue to work with you to see if there are any solutions to increasing social experiences for our pupils, particularly those who are the only child in their household.
Too much screen time	We have scheduled in Screen Breaks in the timetables to ensure children get a rest from using digital equipment. Lessons are designed to give the children 4 hours of work a day and this is what is planned for. Wellbeing Wednesday, which will be in place every fortnight from this Wednesday, will be a day when screen time is significantly reduced.
Buildup of activities on Seesaw	Some parents have said that their child's Seesaw activities have built up and begun to look daunting. Please let teachers know if this is an issue for your child and they can manually delete the tasks.

Individual support for your child	We are unable to hold 1:1 meetings with a member of staff and a child due to safeguarding reasons unless another adult is present. As you can imagine, this is not possible due to staffing. We are, however, working hard to offer support to groups of pupils after the live input with the teacher or teaching assistant. We are also beginning to provide interventions remotely across the school. This is no easy feat, and we ask for your patience as we try to address the additional support some of our pupils need.
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Times are tough at the moment. I have been reading about some of the things you are struggling with at home: juggling jobs, children's school work, younger siblings and generally surviving a pandemic. We are all feeling the strain. Everyone's circumstances are different; we understand that, but know that you are not alone. I encourage parents who are feeling overwhelmed to please make contact with their child's class teacher who will endeavor to do their very best to support. This could include a reduction of the year group timetable and some individual or group support.

I would like to thank you again for working so closely with us to help us to provide the best education we can in the circumstances.

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Paine". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light-colored background.

Mrs Sara Paine

Head teacher