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Dear Parent / Carer

GOSH!! What a whirlwind of a few days it has been for us all!!

We hope you are all well and are keeping yourselves and your children safe – we miss you all so very much.

Without a shadow of a doubt, this period is going to be challenging for everyone and we hope you are all beginning to adjust well in these difficult circumstances. As you may have noticed, we are striving to send out regular communications to our community so that we can continue to give you important updates.

First and foremost, for those of you now struggling to work from home with your children trying to complete online learning, you have our sincere sympathies. It is not an easy task and is most certainly one that we would not ever have hoped to wish upon you. Remember, you ARE amazing; you are doing the best possible job in supporting your children; you deserve a medal!!! We are not expecting you to teach your children – that is our job – just that you support them wherever and whenever you can and as best as you can. This may look very different in each household. However this looks, do not ever feel guilty and feel that you are not doing a good job – YOU ARE!!

Consequently, we do think it is very important to keep reminding ourselves that school will not be closed forever, although it may seem that way at the moment. We all want to be back at school as soon as possible.

Most of you will now have begun to access the online learning provided for the children.

The purpose of this communication is to remind you of a few key points contained within our remote learning policy that was sent out last term. The policy was based on the following **LEGAL** requirements stipulated by the Government, DfE and OFSTED:

When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects



- set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum: primary - 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject

The amount of work set for the children and the breadth of the curriculum required is not a school choice, rather the directive of the DfE in ensuring continuity of education for the children as far as possible. We need to remember that the expectation placed upon us all during this lockdown is very different from the last. It is becoming increasingly important to ensure that children access education either remotely or in school, as the necessity for further lockdowns is unknown. Children simply cannot be placed at detriment in their future lives having missed huge chunks of education and learning.

Reminders:

- Home learning will be accessible via the 'Tapestry' platform – should you have any problems with accessing this, please inform us immediately and we will support you. Having encountered issues with access over the past two days, we have contacted Tapestry, who have assured us that the FULL service will be up and running by Monday at the very latest. Improvements are being made to adjust to the number of pupils accessing the system Nationally – please bear with us whilst this happens.
- The work loosely follows your child's usual timetable – so your child will receive work on a daily basis which will continue through this period of home learning. It is a **Government** directive that children receive learning and a broad and balanced curriculum online.
- We hope you can understand that we are unable deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, as nothing compares to face to face learning, but our ultimate aim is that your children will not miss out by not being in school at the moment. We've tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils learning at home and those in school – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period. Children in school are taking part in the SAME learning and have the SAME educational offer.
- Children / parents should check their Tapestry account on a daily basis for messages and tasks sent from their classroom teacher. Where work is set, children are to complete the task and send it back to their teacher for marking and feedback. **It is important that deadlines are adhered to wherever possible** in order that teachers can see work and address misconceptions and adjust planning ready for the next day's learning. It is most important that English and Maths learning is completed and sent back to be looked at, if prioritising of tasks needs to take place.

If you have any concerns about this, please email the CLASS TEACHER. We are here to help and support.

- Finally, if your children 'run out' of things to do, encourage them to play, get fresh air in the garden, enjoy being children and remember, *"The more you read the more you will know. The more that you learn the places you will go!"* - in short, you can never read too many books!

If you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know. Our Class Teachers are contactable throughout the Closure period should you need advice/support.

On this note, may we bring to your attention how amazing our school staff have been and continue to be – we are so incredibly proud of them! With only hours of notice, they planned and began to deliver education both onsite and remotely at home for the children of our school – their workload has doubled overnight. We are NOT closed as much of the press and social media would have you believe; we're not having a rest! We are, as you all are, working incredibly hard – harder than we have ever worked before in our lives – in very worrying and traumatic circumstances. We do not want your thanks and praise for our staff – they are just doing their jobs – but we do politely request that you are all kind. Staff are under immense pressure and taking to social media to air problems and take issue with staff is not helpful, nor particularly supportive as we have seen so many parents from other schools doing over the past few days. PLEASE, if you have any concerns / worries / issues, please contact the staff member directly, or either of us – we want to help and support you. We all need to be there for each other – Landkey School is a fabulous community and we know this is what we will all strive towards in such tricky times.



On a final note, our school does remain open for children of 'Critical Workers' and the 'Vulnerable', as we want to support the vital jobs they are ALL doing for our communities – we thank them wholeheartedly for this. However, to all 'Critical Workers', whilst the criteria states that only one parent needs to be a Key Worker in order for your child to attend school, we do ask that your child stays at home unless it is **absolutely essential** that they attend school. We currently have 50% of our children in attendance. It is vital that we all work together to protect everyone, this includes our children, our staff and the whole population.

We would like to thank everyone within our school community for their relentless support and their ongoing determination in ensuring that our children's welfare and education are protected as much as possible under these exceptional circumstances.

It leaves us to say, please take care and keep in touch. We miss you all so much.

Keep safe,

Kate and Lucy