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Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

RE: Park's approach to remote learning (online learning).

As we face this second full school closure due to lockdown, the leaders at Park have had to decide how to approach online learning during the closure. The options available included the following:

1. The **paper style** Park used during the lockdown in March, with activities being completed by the child at home following instructions from teachers,
2. **Live online lessons** led by the class teacher using zoom for example,
3. **Recorded online lessons** led by the class teacher
4. **Third party online lessons** like the Government recommended Oak National Academy offer.

I am aware that many parents would prefer the live or recorded option as mentioned above, however, due to the small staff we have at Park, this would not be feasible for the following reasons: All the teachers and support staff are working full time at Park at the moment. One week the teachers have non-contact time during which they make contact with children at home, with slots of one hour per child per fortnight. During this slot, the teachers respond to the progress the child is making at home with their learning, and they provide direct feedback to the child, sharing results and areas for development as well as celebrating success. Teachers are also obviously reviewing the children's home learning during this week and making comments about areas to improve in readiness for the phone call. They also prepare the online lessons for the following week during the non-contact week. The following week, they are teaching full time in one of the bubble classes. The support staff we have at Park are all assigned to a SEN child, so they are not able to deliver lessons here for the children who are attending.

As you are aware, I took the decision to use the Government recommended **Oak National Academy** resources for children to access and use at home during this second lockdown. We chose this platform because they have over 1000 lessons and resources which cover a range of subjects from the English National Curriculum, with year groups covered from EYFS to Year 11.

The lessons are an hour long and they are delivered by highly experienced teachers. Many of the lessons include pre-recorded videos and quizzes as well as worksheets and creative activities. They are easy to use, without the need for logins or passwords and they are able to be used on any devices. The quality of the lessons are excellent and we have ensured the lessons last for the duration of a normal school day.

If you find that your child is taking considerably less time, please arrange a phone call with the class teacher who will talk through the process with you and what can be done to support better application of the lessons. The lesson structure should take every child a whole day to complete if being completed properly.

Please also note that there are currently three members of Park staff who are absent as they are self-isolating which is to be expected at the moment, but adds increased pressure to those staff who are present.

This is undoubtedly a very tough time for parents who are attempting to support their children at home. You are not teachers, many of you are working full time from home and many of you are not sure how to give feedback to your child or how to measure success. With this in mind, we will be asking you to scan over your child's learning fortnightly (details below with time frames). We recommend you buy a lined exercise book like this one for your child to put their work in. We can provide you with one should you need us to.



Once a fortnight, can you photograph your child's learning and scan it using the free 'Scannable' app (make sure it is this app as it is better than other ones):



The teacher will review your child's learning and feedback to your child during the fortnightly one-hour meeting. In order to do this, can you please scan your child's home learning in one go as this will make it logistically easier to manage 30 children's home learning being sent in as one per child rather than split up per child per day (so wait until the deadline as detailed below) and email the whole two weeks work to the email address below for your child's class by the deadline:

Year group	Date parents to scan and email child's home learning	Email address to send scanned work to	Week that your child will be called by the class teacher
Reception	Surnames A to L Sunday 17 th January in the afternoon	Reception@park-academy.org	Surnames A to L week beginning 18 th January
	Surnames M – Z Sunday 24 th January in the afternoon		Surnames M – Z week beginning 25 th January
Year One	Sunday 17 th January at 5pm then every two weeks from this date	Year1@park-academy.org	week beginning 18 th January
Year Two	Sunday 24 th January at 5pm then every two weeks from this date	Year2@park-academy.org	week beginning 25 th January

Year Three	Sunday 17 th January at 5pm then every two weeks from this date	Year3@park-academy.org	week beginning 18 th January
Year Four	Sunday 24 th January at 5pm then every two weeks from this date	Year4@park-academy.org	week beginning 25 th January
Year Five	Sunday 17 th January at 5pm then every two weeks from this date	Year5@park-academy.org	week beginning 18 th January
Year Six	Sunday 24 th January at 5pm then every two weeks from this date	Year6@park-academy.org	week beginning 25 th January

Please note that the Oak National Academy are running free webinars for parents so you have an idea about how best to ensure your child gets the most out of the resource. Here are the details: <https://support.thenational.academy/en/>

Daily contact with the class teacher:

We want to give you or your child the opportunity to raise any questions that come up when you are tackling home learning on a daily basis. For example, your child may stumble on a question or be unsure how to tackle part of an activity. If this is the case, you can email the teacher, and they will email you or call you back that day. It may well be that the alternate teacher who is having a non-contact week will be calling you back rather than your child's class teacher. Please use the email address that is shared above to send your questions or queries to.

Finally, I want to inform you that we will be monitoring children's progress with home learning rigorously and we feel it is very important that every child is completing the work to the standard that is expected of them. If they are not doing so, we will be making further contact with you to see how we can support your child's engagement at home. We want children to keep up as much as they can during the school closure. We understand this can be challenging, especially for the younger children and if parents are working from home, but we hope we can work together as much as possible to give you and your child the help they need at home.

In the meantime, you can expect a phone call from your child's class teacher, and they will ask for a suitable one-hour fortnightly slot for them to go through the child's home learning and the progress made over the two-week period.

We have contacted those families who we know require support as they do not have WIFI at home or any IT devices or the means to purchase them and we have lent devices to these children. If you need some help with WIFI or IT equipment, please let me know.

This letter contains a lot of information, so do please email me if you would like any further clarification.

Best wishes

Bella Street
Headteacher

Information from the Department for Education regarding remote online learning:

1) **Remote education** –

- 'We have set out clear, legally binding requirements for schools to provide high-quality remote education. This is mandatory for all state-funded schools and will be enforced by Ofsted.'
- '*Strengthened* remote education expectations will be put in place'
- 'If parents feel their child's school is not providing suitable remote education they should first raise their concerns with the teacher or headteacher and failing that, report the matter to Ofsted.'
- 'We expect schools to provide between **three and five teaching hours a day**, depending on a child's age.' The upper limit of five hours is new in terms of specificity: yesterday the guidance talked about the following for secondary schools: '4 hours a day, with more for pupils working towards formal qualifications this year'.
- 'We are today publishing updated remote education guidance for schools and colleges while on-site attendance is restricted. This includes an expectation that schools overcome pupil barriers to digital access, by for example distributing school-owned laptops accompanied by a user agreement or contract or providing printed resources (such as textbooks and workbooks) to structure learning, supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils on track or answer questions about work.' As of sending this email, this updated guidance has not been published.
- 'The government expects schools to have a digital platform, such as G-Suite or Microsoft Education, and should provide at least some of their remote provision via video lessons – this can be done by school-led videos or using other providers like **Oak National Academy**.'

Please note the following regarding Oak National Academy:

Oak National Academy was created in April 2020 as a rapid response to the coronavirus outbreak. More than 40 teachers and colleagues from leading education organisations came together to support schools' efforts to keep children learning.

In their first term, they delivered 20 million lessons.

With the support of hundreds of teachers, sector bodies, unions and subject associations, they are continually listening to your feedback to improve and extend our range of free resources.