

15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Remote Learning Update – Reception – Year 6

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support, patience, and positive attitude as we have rolled out our new, revised remote learning model. We do appreciate that this is not an ideal teaching and learning scenario and we cannot wait to have the children back in school; we really are missing them! I hope that the first week has run smoothly for you all and that children have been enjoying the wonderful lessons that teachers have put together over the course of this week.

Feedback from Parents

We have received some brilliant feedback from parents, which has been very gratefully received. As this is new territory for us all, we continue to welcome and encourage parental feedback; it really is essential so that we can ensure that we provide a high-quality, ambitious remote learning offering, which our parents and pupils feel is of the highest standard. It is important that we know more about what is working well for our families, as well as any elements that we can improve further and, therefore, we will be providing parents with a survey as a platform for feedback to be shared. We have developed our new model that now includes a much greater emphasis upon live lessons, more specialist lessons and more meaningful feedback sessions based on the comments you shared with us during the last period of remote learning. Parents have already shared with us that these new additions have been very positive and led to greater engagement with remote learning. The inclusion of breakout rooms, the core skills session and work galleries have also been particular highlights and we welcome any opportunities for pupils to celebrate their achievements and work that makes them proud with one another.

We do appreciate new ideas and feedback regarding our remote provision. There will be an opportunity for all parents to share their feedback via a survey that will be sent to parents on Friday 22 January. After this date, we will collate and review year group feedback in order to ensure that our provision is working for as many families as possible.

Independent Learning

We have been incredibly proud of how independent all of the children, whether they are in Year 1 or Year 6, have been since returning to remote learning. In such a short period of time, they have all become IT experts and have demonstrated that they are incredibly competent using all the functions of Teams to engage with and contribute to lessons. It is important that once the children have been set up for the morning and are logged in to their lessons that they do continue to develop this independence. We are aware that this situation does put extra pressure on families and our remote provision model and lessons delivered are done so in order to ensure that parents do not need to support their children. We do understand that where there are

technical issues parents may need to support their child, but otherwise, we would encourage you to step away and go about your day. The additions made to our provision are there in order that no additional expectations are put upon our parents during this challenging time. Many of you are managing work commitments alongside supervision of your children and we have ensured that our lessons will enable you to continue with your commitments uninterrupted as your children will be kept occupied throughout.

Feedback Sessions

Having increased live interaction has been a real highlight for teachers and children, and this is exemplified in the feedback sessions that take place on a Monday afternoon for Years 1-6. We feel that it is important that children receive individual and personalised feedback live from their teachers and would like to make greater use of these sessions. Teachers will now provide all of their meaningful feedback to children during these sessions (as opposed to using Firefly) where they can speak directly with the children in a small group setting about their achievements and areas for development on a weekly basis. This will also allow for a quicker turnaround between submission of work and feedback shared, making it more meaningful and allowing for pupils to make improvements to their work when the feedback is fresh in their minds. I would like to note to parents that work submitted after Friday is unlikely to be addressed in those feedback sessions as teachers have a full day of teaching on Monday and are therefore unable to mark work at the same time, but work submitted prior to this will be discussed in these sessions. Children also continue to receive instant feedback in lessons and at times, when appropriate, mark work in class, as well as using the work galleries in the relevant Team for both teacher and peer feedback.

Work Galleries

It has been wonderful to see the work children produce in the work gallery channel. It is an excellent opportunity for children to showcase the work that they are extremely proud of and a fantastic option for them to share their feedback with one another. Please do not feel that you need to upload work into this gallery as there is no expectation to, but if your child is particularly proud of something that they have produced, we always love to see it. Similarly, please do not feel that you need to upload all work to this channel. Teachers will make it clear which pieces of work need to be submitted and where to submit them so that teachers can see them. Please try to save the gallery for those extra special pieces of work.

PE Morning Fitness

Another highlight for us all over the past week has been Team PE's Morning Fitness Session. It has been wonderful to see so many of the children joining in to start the day with a fun, engaging exercise routine. If your child has not had a chance to join this yet, I strongly urge you to do so as it is a great way to get the body moving and the blood pumping before a day of work. It is especially important at this time where we have fewer opportunities to go outside and, with the weather taking a turn, children are able to do it in the comfort of their own home.

I hope that you have had a successful first full week of remote learning and, if you do experience any technical concerns, please do send it through directly to me at jsict@stdunstans.org.uk.

Once again, I would like to say a huge thank you to both the children and you for adapting so quickly and positively to remote learning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Murphy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr A Murphy
Junior School Deputy Head Academic