Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

5.11.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Remote Learning Through Showbie Virtual Classroom

The Coronavirus Pandemic continues to cause disruption to our daily lives. At Whinfield we recognise that educating our pupils must continue when a child, a member of staff, a bubble or the whole school are forced to isolate at home.

We have therefore been working hard to provide children with a remote learning package should they need to self-isolate or remain at home. During the previous lockdown we used Purple Mash as our vehicle for remote learning, however, under the current Government guidance we need to ensure that children at home are receiving the same learning as they would if they were in school.

Whinfield Primary School will provide all children who need to isolate with:

- immediate remote education through Showbie App or Website
- a broad and ambitious curriculum that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources that are linked to the school's curriculum expectations
- purposeful assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- a planned and well-sequenced curriculum that builds knowledge and skills incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practiced in each subject
- timely feedback on their work so that they can continue to make progress with their learning.

In order to access the on line learning your child will need:

- Access to a device capable of either downloading the Showbie App or an internet browser such as google chrome or safari to open Showbie through the internet.
- Their individual username and password for Showbie (this will be issued by school).
- Pen and Paper / Exercise books (issued by school).

Once in Showbie your child may be directed to other educational tools or websites such as; The Oak Academy, White Rose Maths, Ten Town, Purple Mash and many more that school subscribe to and will need their username and passwords issued by school to access these sites. Every child has received an exercise book today, which needs to be used for home learning and contains their individual passwords. It is important that it is kept somewhere safe. Each child has had the opportunity to use Showbie in school with their teacher.

It is a Government requirement that your child participates in learning during an isolation relating to COVID or in the event of a lockdown.

There is no requirement to participate in learning if your child is unwell.

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We have attached the updated ICT Acceptable Use Policy to this letter and a copy of which is placed on the website. Please can you ensure you read it through as it sets out the expectations for use of Remote learning for pupils, parents/carers, staff, Governors and volunteers. It is important that you talk through the guidance with your child.

Help us to help you:

- We have created a list of pupils without devices or internet access from the form parents completed and will contact you to make alternative arrangements in the event your child is isolating. If your circumstances change meaning your child does not have access to an electronic device or broadband internet, **it is vital that you inform the school office** admin@whinfield.net as soon as possible so we can facilitate your child's learning.
- Keep all your child's usernames and passwords safe as these will be used both inside school and at home.
- Pending governor approval, we hope to be able to offer the opportunity for families to purchase an iPad through our 1:1 scheme which will enables school to manage the content on the iPad, offer a secure case and full insurance in the event your Childs iPad is accidentally damaged. We will send out detailed information following the governor meeting next week. We understand times are unprecedented and job security may be vulnerable so PLEASE only sign up to this scheme if you can afford it as it is a lease scheme for which parents are responsible for full repayment over a period of time regardless of whether or not your child is still at Whinfield.
- We understand that the majority of our pupils have access to a device at home, we are sorry that currently we are unable to allow home devices to be brought to school as we do not have the capacity to manage external devices or secure storage to ensure they are not lost, damaged or broken. However, Showbie classroom can still be accessed on personal devices for homework on evenings and weekends.

If your child needs to be absent due to COVID-19, they MUST access this work for the duration of their absence unless they are ill.

You or your child can also message your teachers through Showbie or the home learning email accounts. With regards to messaging we would like to clarify how this can be used:

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DO

- Do message if you want to share something positive from home
- Do message if you have a small query or would like to find out something simple
- Do message if your child has any minor worries, for example: '*Jack didn't quite understand fractions today, could you please point me in the direction of where I can get some further practise work for him*'

DON'T

- Please don't use Showbie to raise an issue, please contact the school office in the usual way
- Please do not message via Showbie or email to notify school of absences or illnesses – this should be done via the school office as normal
- Please do not use Showbie to message about any urgent or serious issues; please use the school office and normal school procedures for this

REMEMBER

Teachers will always endeavour to reply as quickly as possible. However, please bear in mind that school life can be incredibly busy and whilst every effort will be made to reply or acknowledge messages, there may be a slight delay on occasion. Additionally, please do not expect a reply to any messages sent after 4pm or on a weekend as teachers will not be able to reply.

Home learning email addresses are as follows

receptionhomelearning@whinfield.net

year1homelearning@whinfield.net

year2homelearning@whinfield.net

year3homelearning@whinfield.net

year4homelearning@whinfield.net

year5homelearning@whinfield.net

year6homelearning@whinfield.net

It is extremely important that ALL parents/carers sign up to this platform and download the app or try it out on a web browser as soon as possible. That way, should the unfortunate happen and a bubble or whole school need to close, we are able to ensure children can continue to work from home without any gaps in their education.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Welsh