



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, this isn't the normal post-Christmas, first week back weekly round-up!

Whilst 'Happy New Year' is truly meant, with the extraordinary levels of collective resilience needed day in day out at the moment, I guess we would all like 2021 to be a little bit less demanding than it has been so far!

So, Sunday schools were safe, no problem.

Monday schools were shut because of high transmissibility rates, with no notice nor guidance.

Tuesday schools were closed to arrange Critical Worker places with guidance that keeps changing.

Wednesday schools were back open, still with no guidance.

I want you to know the reality – this is not the lockdown that we remember in March with just a tiny group of children and everyone protected at home. School is **open**; running all classes; with all staff.

So whilst the guidance says 'stay at home' to once again flatten the curve and protect the NHS (our hearts go out to hospitals declaring critical incidents due to extreme pressures); high or higher numbers in all schools mean that the transmissibility concern remains.

We have all had to juggle complex home circumstances and make hard decisions if able to request a Critical Worker place. But given the changes in remote learning delivery this time (even though we are yet to perfect this) if our direction of travel and intention means that you feel able to reconsider a place and keep your child at home, please simply let us know.

To that end, I want to share our remote learning strategy ...

All the training and preparation doesn't replace the actual 'doing' of something new. In addition, we had foolishly anticipated a notice period for a third lockdown in which we could have practised and made plans – however this has all been 'live' and you have seen us not know and make mistakes. I have been live teaching too and learnt so much in terms of what I now can do, what I want to know how to do and how easy it is to forget something, like pressing 'record' or pressing return in a message function and sending it too soon!

We will get better.

We have been sharing learning via Dojo and TEAMS. We are still using Dojo as we know everyone is familiar with this due to the last lockdown. But with our commitment to meet the government's ambition of continuous learning as part of a class, this means that the use of TEAMS is needed. We hope to move over to TEAMS in fullness by the end of next week so that there is one place for everything and messages are not over-looked.

The difficulty was time.

We had prepared TEAMS access for your children a long time ago in readiness for this. However, I think that such an immediate lockdown was not anticipated so many had not signed up or made use of the App for familiarisation – in school, we hadn't used it to its full potential and had hoped for a notice period with the children for set-up tuition. But hey ho, here we are and brilliantly doing our best, offering support and advice to help get this up and running. Thank you all.

Moving forward ...

We have tried out timings this week around staffing deployment, the format of lesson delivery and balancing internet use across the school. Below you will find a timetable which we hope will help to balance school with home pressures. We know this is important:

Class 1	LIVE Lesson 1		LIVE Lesson 2	LIVE Mini 3
	9.15		10.15	11.45 TBC if reqd

Class 2	LIVE Lesson 1		LIVE Lesson 2	LIVE Mini/Intro 3
	MTWF	9.30	10.30	2.45
	Thur	1.00	2.00	N/A

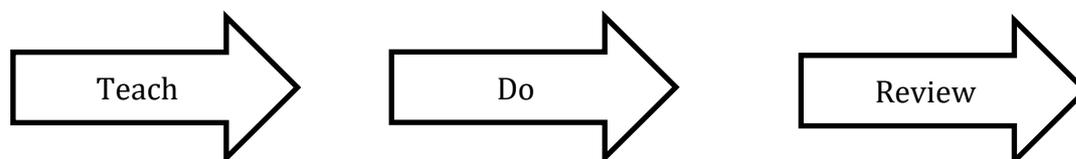
Class 3	LIVE Lesson 1		LIVE Lesson 2	LIVE Mini/Intro 3
	MTTF	9.15	10.30	M/F 2.45 T/TH 1.30
	Wed	1.00	2.00	N/A

Class 4	LIVE Lesson 1		LIVE Lesson 2	LIVE Mini/Intro 3
	9.45		11.00	M/F 2.45 T/TH 1.30

Little Eagles	Gosh, we keep asking you a lot of questions. We would like to LIVE connect with your little ones who are staying safe at home. If you think a short 'LIVE TIME' would be something you would like, please respond by return of email and we will set about arranging this 😊 Thank you 😊			
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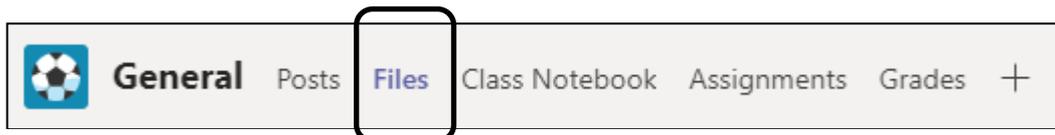
What will lessons be like ...?

The structure of the LIVE Lessons will include a face-to-face input to engage with the children and 'teach' the lesson. This may include moments where the children are asked to do a short task and share and answer questions just like if they were in the classroom. After this, the activity will be shared and this may require you to reference the Powerpoint for questions or text. This will be the part of the lesson requiring your child to complete a task and 'do' the activity. At this time the teacher will stay on-call so that you can ask them any questions as you do the task, but you don't have to stay. Finally, it may be appropriate to come back together to 'review' the task or just ensure the task is posted for the teacher to see in time for the next lesson.



We will include the daily timetable of lessons at the beginning of the daily Powerpoint so that you are aware of the learning expectations for the day. LIVE Lessons will be highlighted and therefore the other lessons are for independent completion using the content in the slideshow.

The work is also being saved in the Files section of TEAMS:



Ideally, we would like to move away from dual posting in TEAMS and Dojo if this is possible with the systems our families have in place. Of course, we do not want to cause additional stress, so will monitor this over the next week as everyone gets used to a different lockdown.

Finally, we know that we need to set up the functionality for your child to post their work in TEAMS. In the meantime, we want to thank you for sending everything via Dojo as you did in the last lockdown. This information will be shared within lessons next week.

Well, there it is, a very long round-up of Spring Term 1, Week 1. Thank you for your staying power and reading it all. I hope that it helps paint a picture of where we are, what we're doing and what we're trying to do.

All I can say to close, is 'thank you'. Two simple words, but never before meant with such immense appreciation and gratitude.

God bless, stay safe, stay well

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