

ENGAGEMENT ENJOYMENT ENTHUSIASM = EXCELLENCE.

Headteacher: Mrs. Wendy D'Arcy



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**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all so very much for your kind words and messages. The team have worked tirelessly in order to prepare and deliver live teaching within 24 hours of the Prime Minister announcing the closure of schools for many children, except the for Critical Workers and Vulnerable. They have done a great job of managing the children remotely, as well as catering for those in school!

In order to ensure the expectations are clear for remote learning, we request that:

- Children should wear suitable clothing – it might help the children to wear their school or PE jumper
- The same behavioural expectations will be in place for online learning as it would be for learning in the classroom
- Children should not record the lesson or take photos
- Parents are expected to be around during their child's online lessons; this does not necessarily need to be on the screen, but ideally in the same room.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Videos may be muted for both pupils and staff if other children in the household become unsettled or cause a disruption
- Parents monitor child's internet use and check that they are using technology safely
- Check online protection systems to ensure their time online is as safe as possible.
- Ensure that the children have a suitable amount of time away from the screen in the day

Your child's teacher will keep in touch through TEAMS and /or telephone to check how your child is getting on with their learning, as well as the elements that they are finding difficult. Where required, support will be offered to overcome misconceptions or in the case of the work not being sufficiently challenging, again responding to this so that future work planned helps them move forward.

Keeping children safe online when they are using technology remains a high priority for all of us. Please be assured that when we have suggested online platforms to support your child with home learning tasks, we have fully considered your child's safety. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, the links below have some excellent advice and guidance for parents about how to ensure your child's safety.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

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*Love your neighbour as yourself.  
We care, learn and achieve... together.*

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<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

As a school we have thought hard about how to keep in touch with you and your child moving forward. From week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January, we expect ALL children to engage with learning. It has been made very clear that during this lock down, we are providing education and not childcare. Therefore, please ensure that your child participates in the remote learning. Both staff and children worked exceptionally hard last term and many children made great progress with their learning-we would like this to continue and for the children to SHINE. Evidence is very clear that being out of education causes significant harm to learning, life chances and mental and physical health. If you need any support with accessing learning, then please contact [slt@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:slt@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk). We will contact you, if your child does not join in with 'live' teaching or remote learning. Of course, our fabulous family support worker, Mrs. Smith, will be in touch with many of you and I am sure you will appreciate her support.

We recognise that this is an anxious time for families and for children. Children may have some questions about Coronavirus. The illustrator of "The Gruffalo" has worked with some medics to produce a book for children that you could read together that may help with supporting their questions.

<https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus-ABookForChildren.pdf>

Additionally, Coram Education who work closely with schools through their work with PSHCE curriculum have some resources for parents that can support these anxious times and questions including the use of Harold, a character that will be well known to most of them from teaching in school and his daily diary. The link for this website can be found here. <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/here-for-parents>

As always should you have any concerns, or questions, please do contact us at [slt@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:slt@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk)

Please be assured of our continued best wishes for you and your families. We will look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Wendy D'Arcy  
Headteacher

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