



Yealmpton Primary School

www.yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk



WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

A partner school in the Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST)
Thursday 14th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

As we come to the end of the second week of the Spring Term and remote learning, I would like to say thank you to the children and parents for the efforts you are making to engage with the learning through Microsoft Teams.

Inevitably, there are going to be some teething problems, but it is important to remember that this is new to many of you and many of the staff. We will refine and improve as we go along.

Thank you to those who have given us constructive feedback, we consider all suggestions for improvement. However, I refer back to the 'Goldilocks situation', - not too hot, not too cold but just right. We know that what suits one family may not suit another, so the decisions we make aim to be the best for most children and families. We also need to develop a POSE and Remote Learning curriculum that is sustainable and manageable for staff when working from both home and school.

It is good to hear from so many of you and receive positive feedback about the blended combination of teaching videos, live stories and round up sessions, thank you for letting us know. It is rewarding and encouraging to receive support in such challenging times when staff are supporting the children and parents both in school and at home.

We have received some laptops from the DfE, which are available for families who do not have an appropriate device to enable their child to access the home learning via Teams. We would also like to thank Saltram and Ivybridge Rotary Club and a local resident, who have also generously donated tablets and a laptop to the school.

Please email the office team if you would like your child to be considered for this support admin@yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk These devices will be loaned to children on the basis of need. For information, we understand that Teams can also be accessed in a number of different ways - Xbox, PlayStation, Switch, Kindle Fire. It is worth trying if you have access to any of these.

DfE Mobile Data Support



The DfE are also offering increased mobile data for families who meet all of the following criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruptions to their face-to face education

Please contact the office if you meet the above criteria so we can see if we can help.

Reception Applications for September 2021

A reminder that the deadline for starting Primary School in September 2021 is Friday 15th January 2021. Online applications must be submitted by midnight before the system closes.

Reading Support

We have invested in Reading Planet eBooks for all the children as we know the difficulty some of you encountered to maintain regular reading, as access to appropriate books was very limited in the last lockdown. We are excited and hopeful that this extensive range of books will ignite a passion for reading at home. Initially, whilst setting up the system, the website is experiencing glitches and we are optimistic these will be remedied in due course.

Microsoft Teams

Teams will allow us and our pupils to engage with virtual face-to-face connections and activities whilst keeping children connected to their classrooms/teachers and this collaboration will help support the children to make progress with theory learning.

We are establishing clear rules and expectations for when the children are using Teams, including when participating in a live story or round up session. Please could you help reinforce these with your children to ensure everyone's safety and effective use of Teams.

The Do's and Don'ts of Microsoft Teams

Do's:

- Engage in and complete assignments regularly each week
- Ensure you check your messages and activity
- We are doing 'hands up feature' not chat
- Make use of the full functions, such as Word, and PowerPoint to help you with your home learning
- Access a through and wait in lobby

Do not:

- Use the email system (Outlook)
- Write inappropriate or irrelevant content in the chat feature
- Start your own video meetings
- Change your profile picture or password - these are set generically
- Use the platform for socialising purposes
- Take any screen-shots or share any of the messages or posts on any platform other than the schools' learning platform.
- Use any account other than your own
- Use the chat facility to message each other
- Unmute when in a live call, unless unmuted by the teacher.
- Post messages on the 'Post' page - this is for teachers only.
- Take photos of live Teams meetings as this can have safeguarding implications.

I am so proud of the whole school community and how yet again we have come together during difficult times. Thank you for all you are doing to support the school at this time, we know it is not easy, please just do the best you can.

Please all take care and stay safe.

Best wishes
Louise Young
Head teacher