



# Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed Church of England (Aided) Junior School

High Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1AY

Tel: 01227 273630

Headteacher: Ellen Butcher

[headteacher@whitstable-endowed.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@whitstable-endowed.kent.sch.uk)

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Families of the Endowed,

I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well and that your minds are not too overwhelmed with everything that is going on; easier said than done, I know. We adjust again to a new way and together we will continue to do the very best we can for our children.

School is very quiet today as you would expect. Safer for everyone but a different place although staff are upbeat and busy making plans and the children are also keeping busy.

As promised in my letter yesterday evening, I write today with more information about our plans for remote learning, laptop loans and free school meals. There is a lot of information and I have tried to make it as precise as I can.

## Remote Learning

We will be providing 3 lessons each day on Teams: Maths, English and another subject which will change each day. All work will be posted on Teams each morning.

The children in school will access the same lessons as those children at home.

Teachers and teaching assistants will respond to the work as soon as possible but are also working with children in school so please be patient for a response. We are hoping that teaching assistants will be on Teams to answer any written messages.

We have set up a Class Meet Time that will happen every day for around 30 minutes. This will be a live meeting on Teams and the invitation will be posted each morning on the class Team page. This is a great opportunity for the children, teachers and teaching assistants to have a chat and see their class and friends. Virtual Guided Reading time will be happening and each child will be invited to take part once a week. A timetable will be uploaded onto Teams when ready.

Any work completed on paper can be kept and brought into school when we are fully open.

Your child can also access Spelling Shed and TTRockstars and we would encourage them to try and do these for a few minutes each day.

Reading should be done each day and doesn't always need an adult to listen; reading for pleasure is so important and should be encouraged.

There will be no live lessons. There is no expectation from the DfE for this to happen and our teachers will be prerecording lessons to share. Alongside our lessons, there are other lessons that can be accessed on the BBC Online and Oaks Academy websites.

**NB** There is no expectation that your child completes every lesson, every day. It would of course be wonderful if this was possible but we know from feedback during the first lockdown that sometimes other things happen that stop this being possible. We certainly do not want to put any families under any more pressure. The children know how to access the learning on Teams and should be fairly self-sufficient. If you need a password re-set, please email Ms. Butcher or click the password reset request button.





### Laptop Loans

We have received several Chromebooks from the DFE and we can now lend these out to families who need these so that your child can access their remote learning from home.

If you need to borrow a Chromebook from the school for this purpose, please contact the school office and we will reply with the necessary forms for you to complete and make arrangements for you to collect the device.

### Free School Meals

As we are now in another period of national lockdown, we are required to continue to provide meal options for those pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals.

This time around the government have advised schools to provide food parcels for Free School Meal pupils who are not in school. Children who are entitled to Free School Meals and who are attending school will continue to be provided with a hot meal at lunchtimes. Weekly food parcels for those pupils not in school, will be made up by the school and will include a variety of healthy ingredients for parents and carers to prepare simple and healthy lunches for their children at home. Parcels will be available to collect from school every **Monday morning between 11am and 12pm**. These can be collected by yourselves following socially distanced guidelines or you can nominate another person to collect on your behalf. If for any reason you are unable to arrange collection of these parcels, please do contact us and we will endeavour to deliver the parcels to you. We are not aware at this stage that the supermarket vouchers previously offered by the Government will be available during this lockdown.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and you would like us to provide a weekly food parcel, **please let us know by emailing or telephoning the school**. Schools have been directed to follow guidance by the Food Standards Authority on what can be put in the food parcels, so we are sorry but we cannot take requests for specific food items. Of course any allergies or dietary requirements will be taken into account. If you would like to read more information relating to this, please click this link to view. [Food parcel information](#)

A lot of information but very important nevertheless. Please do get in touch if you have any questions at all about any of the above or anything else for that matter. We are here to help and support you as always. This is a tough time for everyone and for some even more so.

Even though things are tough the good 'stuff' is still out there too. Let's make sure we keep looking out for it and look forwards to better times ahead. I am so delighted with our children and how they have responded to the very strange 'topsy-turvy' times. We didn't want this for our children but we have to make the best of things for them. I have written to the children so perhaps you would like to share my letter with them.

Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers,

With warmest regards,

*EM Butcher*

Ellen Butcher  
Headteacher

