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Friday 24th April 2020

Communication and Feedback Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you

Thank you all so much for the feedback that you have been giving us as a Federation during this time. We appreciate that these times are challenging and that learning from home is somewhat different and unknown. We really value the responses you have shared with us and appreciate the time you have given to this. It has also been really lovely to hear from so many of you and we want to keep this going as much as possible. This letter contains our Federation Protocol for Communication and Feedback and some advice following some of the responses to our Google Forms.

Communication

As a Federation we recognise how important communication is and we will keep you updated whenever we can either by letters, Parentmails or individual emails or phone calls. It is really important to us that we are in regular contact with all of the families in our community and we really appreciate your support in helping us to do this.

Every Friday, we will continue to send out a Google Form for all children in Years 1 - 6 and this will be put onto each Year Group's Home Learning page on the School website. Please find the time to complete these with your children as we do read all the responses and use them to develop our Home Learning and ideas to support you at home. As Nursery and Reception are using Tapestry, we will continue to use this as the main form of communication between the teachers and families.

We have also set up Year Group emails across the Federation, which you can use to contact the teachers. Please do use these to stay in contact, even if it is just to say hello and let us know what you have been up to! In both Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6), the teachers will be encouraging the children on the Home Learning slides to email in to let them know how they are getting on, so please look out for these on the PowerPoint slides.

Google Form Feedback

Following some of the responses we have received on the Google Forms there are a few points that we would like to share with you. Please note that teachers are unable to respond directly to each and every one of your comments or suggestions as they are currently working collaboratively in teams; some in school and some remotely from home. Please be reassured that all of your responses, comments and suggestions are read to ensure we identify any trends. These trends will enable teachers to further tailor Home Learning activities ensuring that they meet the needs of all learners and will provide Senior Leaders with areas to continue to develop and improve. In terms of communication and providing feedback on children's learning we will endeavour to respond within a couple of working days. Whilst we are very aware of the importance of communication and feedback, we need to make sure that it is both sustainable and purposeful.

Home Learning Timetables - Please feel free to use the ones suggested by your children's teachers however it is important to ensure that these work for you as a family. Please consider the times of day that your children are most receptive to different types of learning and when you might be able to provide support if it is required. Please do not stick to the length of time on one activity that they may have been able to do at school and work with your child to find how long they can concentrate on something. It may then be possible for you to adapt your structure to their preferred and most effective ways of learning.

If your child is losing focus or struggling to concentrate, we would either suggest adapting the task slightly or suggest doing something else and then coming back to it at another time. Most importantly, please do not feel under pressure to complete everything – just do what you can. We are all adjusting and we are all finding some days easier than others.

Feedback on Children's Home Learning - Feedback is an important part of the children's learning process and we really value all of the work that the children are doing. Please be aware that teachers are not able to routinely mark pupils' work during school closures, due to the competing demands on them at this time. Whilst feedback cannot be recreated in the same way as it is at school, we have outlined below what we are able to provide at this time to best support the children.

EYFS - Nursery and Reception children are familiar with Tapestry, the Early Years Team will continue to share Home Learning ideas and provide feedback on these for your children.

KS1 (Years 1 and 2) - Children have been using Purple Mash throughout their time with us this year and are therefore very familiar with this programme. Key Stage 1 teachers will provide feedback on any '2Dos' set and completed by the children.

KS1 (Years 1 and 2) and KS2 (Years 3 – 6) - Wherever possible the teachers will provide answers on the Home Learning PowerPoints so that the children can either mark their own work or mark them with a family member. Teachers would also like to invite children to email in examples of their work for positive feedback. Teachers will indicate on the Home Learning PowerPoints which work they would like to be sent in to the Year Group email for that week. The teachers will then be able to provide individual feedback on these pieces.

Sadly, there is no way to replicate a school classroom or the interactions that happen within school on a daily basis. However, we do encourage the children to be in touch with their friends and family as much as they can. We do hope that what we are doing for Communication and Feedback will provide the children with more opportunities to be in touch with their teachers. We are constantly trying to improve and adapt our ways of delivering Home Learning whilst keeping Safeguarding and well-being at the heart of our decision making.

Thank you all for your continued support, keep safe and please contact the school office if there is anything we can do to help you during this time.

Best wishes,

Miss J Concannon
Federation Headteacher