

No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



8th January 2021

Dear Families

What a week this has been for us all! Thank you all for your continued support and patience as we made a swift change from classroom to remote learning. The teachers and support staff have worked incredibly hard to make this happen in a short amount of time and although there are still a few blips to iron out, I am sure that you would agree, they have done a fantastic job.



Remote learning for this lockdown is very different to when we locked down last March. The government has set clear expectations for what schools will provide (3 hours of learning at Primary age) and that children will engage with at home. However, we must not forget that we are in the middle of a pandemic and that the first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all survive both physically and mentally. Please do not worry if some days you are not able to complete all of the learning we do not want it to cause you or your child any more stress than you are already feeling.

Teachers are going to send a timetable out for the week to help you to structure the learning. This is the timetable that the children of critical workers will be following in school. However, if your child is reluctant to engage but will do something on BBC bitesize or another platform then that is okay. If it all gets a bit much and you need to go out for a walk or bike ride then that is okay too. To get through this looking after our mental health is going to be massively important and some days, you may need to focus just on this.

Technology is a huge part of our Remote learning offer this time around. This week has been time for everyone, staff included, to get this set up and working. There have been technical glitches and issues, most of which we have managed to get sorted. As we move forwards, there are likely to be more glitches as there inevitably is with technology. Please could I ask for your understanding and patience when they occur either from the school side or at home. Staff try to work incredibly quickly to solve these issues but sometimes they need to take advice from our IT team or research themselves. If you are working on devices from home which staff are not familiar with, it is difficult for them to rectify issues from a distance although they will try.

Teachers are very keen to do regular online 'hangouts' and see all of the children's smiley faces and I will also be adding in some live assemblies starting from next week. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend a live session, that is fine. As I said previously, families must make the remote learning experience work for them and each family will have their own unique family situation.

Critical Worker Provision

The children who are in school are accessing the same remote learning as the children at home whilst being supported by Teaching Assistants. This provision ends at 12pm on a Friday, as does remote learning to allow the teachers to receive their statutory PPA time.



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Hampers

Any family who are entitled to benefits related Free School Meals have been contacted this week about receiving food hampers if their children are not currently entitled to a critical worker school place. If you believe that this category applies to your child and you haven't been contacted, please contact the school office.

I am aware that this is a very challenging time financially for many families and we are working with a number of organisations to try to access food for families who may need it. If you are finding the current situation very difficult financially and would like some support with food parcels, please contact the school office in confidence and we will endeavour to access support for you.

Support for Internet/Data

Schools are able to access support for families learning at home in the form of increasing data allowances on mobile devices. We are able to request help to do this for children and young people who

- Do not have fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers. Please contact the school office if you would like us to explore this option for you.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have sent in kind comments this week about the home learning and how hard staff are working to ensure that the children remain connected to the school. These comments mean the world to staff and have kept us going through a difficult week.

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Miss Coombe
Head of Academy