



Miers Court Primary School
Silverspot Close
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 8JR
Tel: 01634 388943
Fax: 01634 388486
www.mierscourt.medway.sch.uk
office@mcps.school
Head of School: Mrs S Chapman

Shining Bright, Aiming High

21st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well. As we continue to develop and improve our remote learning offer, a couple of points have come to light which I wanted to share with you.

Covering a teacher's absence

As I'm sure you appreciate, covering the remote learning offer is not as straightforward as covering an in-school absence. The Edmodo and class email accounts (which are used to send out the Teams invitations) are linked to each teacher's email account, which presents some GDPR considerations when trying to put supply cover in place. Fortunately, year group teachers can access both Edmodo accounts for that year group, which does mean that, if a colleague is absent, their partner teacher can post the work for that class for that day or days. We would also be able to respond to posts on the main page. What will be trickier, will be to set up access to the Edmodo and class emails for a supply teacher; it may be that we are unable to offer live sessions in the first 2 days when a member of staff is unwell, but please be assured that the resources that the teacher would have used will be immediately available. Once we know about an absence, we will quickly try to get the Teams sessions up and running again, and will keep you informed of our progress towards doing that.

Code of conduct

During the sessions, we have noticed a few things happening that we wanted to address, eg pupils using the chat functions during sessions, but not to chat about the work; and pupils playing with the PowerPoint of slides which affects the learning offer for everyone in the meeting. To address this, the teachers are obviously speaking to individuals as well as locking some functions, but we have also put together a 'Code of Conduct' for our Teams sessions and the remote learning offer. There have also been some recent guidance updates around the safeguarding aspects of using Teams, including children working in a family area of the house, guidance around dress code, etc., which I have included in the Code of Conduct. As with everything linked to remote learning at the moment, all documents and practices remain under constant review, and we will keep you informed of any changes that come through.

Finally, I have received some emails asking when the children will be back in school, what are we going to do to support children who have fallen behind whatever the reason, etc. All I can say is that I don't know when we will be able to have all of the



children back into school, that will be decided by the government, but I will keep you updated as soon as I hear anything. With regards to catching up, as I've said previously, we do understand that everyone's circumstances are different, and not everyone can attend the Teams sessions. As well as offering Teams sessions each morning, we are also ensuring that all of the resources are shared in case families need to access the learning at different times. Do the best that you can, keep in touch with the teacher, and, when the children return to school, we will identify starting points and work from there, bearing in mind that all schools have been given a very clear mandate to continue to progress learning. If you do not manage anything else, please ensure that you read regularly with your child and discuss their books with them, and that they are practising their maths key skills daily. That does not need to be via the resources that we are sharing, although all can be used at home without a teacher's input, but we have shared other resources such as the BBC offer, the Oak National Academy, etc., on a regular basis.

Thank you for supporting your child's remote learning. Please do get in touch with your child's teacher in the first instance if you have any questions.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Mrs S Chapman
Head of School/AEN Leader