



Cliddesden Primary School
Headteacher's Newsletter
Spring Term Issue 1
8 January 2021

Dear parents, carers and members of our school community

I hope you had a stress free and as good as can be expected Christmas and New Year, under the current circumstances.

Stress was something certainly on the agenda earlier this week with the announcement that schools would remain open and then on Monday evening a change of plans by our government.

The school has still opened this week to the children of parents who are critical workers and those children who are deemed vulnerable. We currently have about 35% of our pupils on this list with around 25% in each day, as some are doing flexible or part time attendance. Each classroom is open and in use, and for break, lunchtimes and PE we have two bubbles EYFS/KS1 and KS2. Staff are in school.

I must take this opportunity to praise my staff. Not only are they constantly planning, preparing, recording, uploading, checking and delivering remote learning, they are also supervising and engaging the children that have returned to school under the criteria I already mentioned. They are working as hard as ever and one must not forget we are in a very worrying time in terms of the pandemic in this region.

I hope that you and your children are enjoying and engaging in their remote learning. This is a very new concept to both the teachers, children and you as parents. Like I said in my guidance this week, our remote learning will evolve as everyone becomes more confident.

We have currently chosen to pre-record lessons rather than host them live as we feel it gives children and parents more flexibility and also if the children at home are sharing devices, allows them all to engage. We also know that if you lose internet connection it could mean you could miss a whole lesson. We do have our live morning 'check in' and are looking at other opportunities for developing the lessons further. What is important is that the lessons include modelling and explanation and most importantly that the children are able to 'turn-in' their completed work for the teacher to mark and assess.

Using the ParentCloud app that school was able to purchase last term we have managed to set up a set of appointments for those pupils who are not attending school at all during this lockdown.

There is one hour a day available for each class which is split into three 15-minute appointments with a 5-minutes gap in between. This means that each pupil not currently attending school should be able to speak to a member of the class team once during a 2-week period. This could be read a story together, 'let's see how you managed with', say a times table, etc. It is important that this is a conversation between pupil and school staff but the parent, for safeguarding reasons, needs to be present in the room with the child.

The attachment outlines how to book your child's appointment with their class staff member and the link below explains how your child attends the appointment - the same as you did for the parent consultations last year.

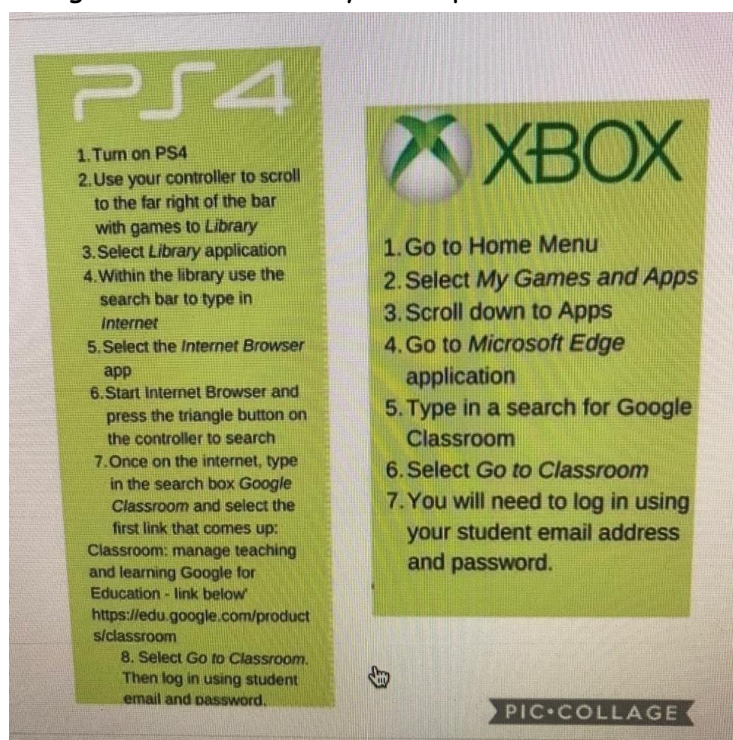
<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

You can start booking your child's contact time from 4pm on Sunday 10 January 2021. The appointments set currently are just for 2 weeks; Monday 11 January to Friday 22 January 2021. The following fortnight will be set up for you to start booking from Sunday 24 January 2021.

Contact time will be with a member of the Class team, not necessarily with the Class Teacher named on the booking. Critical Worker/Vulnerable child families are not able to access these appointments.

If you have any questions, or cannot book a Contact Time for some reason, please speak to the school office staff who will try to help in any way they can.

For Critical Worker and Vulnerable families who have children attending school we will, as mentioned in our Remote Education Provision leaflet sent out earlier this week, be offering a parent consultation during the w/c 8 February 2021, prior to the half-term break.



We have discovered that you can also access Google Classrooms if you have an X-Box or PS4. I have screen shot the instructions for you.

The next five weeks will be challenging for the whole school community. We are here to answer any questions, help solve any IT issues and just to listen if you need us. If you need to contact teachers please use the Google Classroom Platform, not their work emails. Teachers should not be receiving work emails out of school hours, 08:30 to 15:30.

This morning we had Debs in school, delivering PE to our critical worker and vulnerable children. She will also be making short workout videos that we will load onto Google Classrooms for your children very soon.

We have ten Vodafone SIM Cards to offer. They contain 30GB of data for 90 days. If you have an unlocked phone or are a Vodafone customer and would like one, please contact the school. Priority will be given to parents who have children on our Pupil Premium list. This is children who are entitled to free school meals, not the free meals for under 7s but FSM relating to income.

Have a safe and restful weekend

Kenneth Davies
Headteacher