

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



Friday 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 the 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 for KS1 and 4 hours for KS2) 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. We know that children will engage differently at home than they do at school and they may take time to settle to this way of working. Please don't worry if some days you are not able to complete all of the learning we do not want it to cause you any more stress than you are already feeling.

The 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 instead, then that is absolutely okay. If it all gets a bit much and you need to go out for a walk or bike ride then that is also okay too. To get through this pandemic, looking after our mental health is going to be massively important and some days, you may need to just focus 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 working smoothly. 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 solutions themselves. If you are working on devices from home which staff are not familiar with, it is incredibly difficult for them to rectify issues from a distance although they will of course try. Can I please ask that any correspondence about these issues is appropriate and appreciates that the issues are not the fault of staff, although they will endeavour to help you solve them.

I know that the 'Hangouts' which each teacher has held this week have been incredibly helpful and supportive and it is really pleasing that we have had really high engagement with these sessions. The teachers are very keen to do these regularly and see all of the children's smiling faces and I will also be adding in some live assemblies starting from next week. We have spent time trying to timetable these so that there are no clashes between siblings who may only have one device between them. These times may not always suit your family timetable but it is an impossible task to please everyone with these situations. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend a live session,



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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

We have had very high numbers requiring critical worker provision in comparison to the previous lockdown. If your circumstances change and you need to access this provision, please contact the academy office to see if you meet the criteria and if space is available.

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.

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 though 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 either myself or Mrs Brodie in confidence and we will endeavour to access support for you.

Support for Internet/Data

Our position on being unable to loan devices to children during this lockdown period remains, however schools are able to access support for families learning at home in the form of increasing data allowances on mobile devices

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks*. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Our school can request mobile data increases for our 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 you are eligible, please complete this form by Monday 11th January 2021.

<https://forms.gle/SkPtZutXrBH9Ykvg9>

* Current providers are EE, O2, Sky Mobile, Smarty, Tesco Mobile, Three and Virgin Mobile. If your provider is not listed they are not part of this scheme at present.



The Patter of Tiny Feet.....

I'm thrilled to be able to share with you the news that Miss Rowe-Jones is expecting! Baby Rowe-Jones is expected at the end of May and we are all very excited to meet the new member of the All Saints' family. Miss Rowe-Jones is currently working from home to provide the remote learning for her class and will continue to do this for the foreseeable future.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have sent in kind comments this week about the home learning and have recognised 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

L. Garside

Miss L Garside
Executive Head