

## 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



7th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the kind messages of support and thanks that we have been receiving over the past few days, it certainly has been a busy time since we all heard the announcement at the 8pm briefing on Monday. I have been super proud of the incredible partnership working with parents, thank you for your patience whilst we set everything up! I have also been amazed by how resilient our children have been, both those accessing education in school and those accessing it remotely. I know as a mum myself, the challenges for children's emotions that this new lockdown can bring and how important connecting with school still is.

This letter is to follow on from that on Tuesday afternoon to outline more information following our planning. To help you navigate this letter, which has lots of information, it is split into two sections for those accessing education remotely and those accessing in school, with some vital info for ALL families at the end.

### **Children accessing education remotely**

We have been incredibly impressed with how well the children are adapting to their remote learning with lots getting going straight away yesterday. Please do not panic if you are still getting to grips with Google Classroom and the remote learning. Teachers are on hand to help and I know many have been doing this through the live stream on Google Classroom. If you need help, or are struggling with the lack of technology or Wi-Fi, please do contact so we can look at how we can help.

We are all having to get used to new things at this time and I can assure you it is ok if this takes time! The teachers here have had to help me with Google Classroom and teach me how to set up the live assemblies so we are all learning together! Our EYFS pupils are accessing some fun activities from their teachers on Tapestry and it has been brilliant to see so many parents using this platform!

### **Some Technical information**

Here is the link to our webpage with helpful guides and a video we have made about Google Classroom.

<https://ellacombe-lap.co.uk/learning/remote-learning/>

- If you need your login and passwords, please do not hesitate to contact the admin team for help.
- If you are accessing Google Classroom on a mobile device or tablet, you may need to download some Google Applications (APPS) - Google Docs and Google Presentation, these are both free.



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# TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

- If children would like to complete their learning on paper, this can be shared with the teacher by taking a photo and uploading it to the Google Classroom Stream.
- Good news - you are able to access Google Classroom through an Xbox or PlayStation - see info below. Please note that you cannot 'turn in' the work back to the teacher using this, instead, children should note down their answers / work, take a photo and add it to the stream on Google Classroom. If you need a jotter book for this, please let us know:



1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:  
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'  
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.

PIC•COLLAGE

### **Feedback from parents on remote learning**

It has been a pleasure to read some of the comments on Remote Learning already  
*"My daughter loved her online learning and had it done by lunch! Much appreciated as I didn't have a clue what I was doing last lockdown but with this new google classroom she just goes on it and gets on with it 😊"*

Remember, if you have any problems, please contact our admin team via email, phone or text and they will ask your child's teacher to be in touch.

Finally, in the spring term, we loved seeing photos of what the children were up and we would love this to happen again. Please email these directly to your child's teacher's email account e.g. [y6ellacombe@lapsw.org](mailto:y6ellacombe@lapsw.org), it really does bring a smile to teacher's faces to see what they children are doing at home, please title these 'photo'. Teachers will not be able to respond to these but we know how much these photos are a fun way of connecting and (if we have photo permissions for your child), we may well use these photos to share in our newsletters and social media.

## Live sessions and Monday Assembly

It has been brilliant to see the live Google Meet sessions start today; I could see from the teacher's faces how much they enjoyed connecting with the children! Thank you parents for helping the children to log in so well.

I will be running a live assembly every Monday morning, like we do in school. To start with, we will run several sessions as the platform Google Meet has maximum participants of 100, but this will be the same assembly run several times. Assembly is a perfect time to pause and have someone to discuss the ideas with, like we do in school. It would be lovely if you could join your child for the assembly or if you have several children at home, they could join one of the assembly sessions together (older and younger siblings welcome!). The children may wish to have a pencil and paper or notepad ready so they can jot down thoughts and there will be some mini activities at the end which they may wish to have a go at and bring along to the assembly the following week.

We will just be two sessions and to try and have an even number on each Google Meet, we are now going to split by letter of your surname (if your children have different surnames, don't worry, just pick one).

**9.30-9.45 Surnames beginning with A-L**

**10.00-10.15 Surnames beginning M-Z**

(Please note this is different to our original plans to run different assemblies for different year groups in our last letter)

**Here is a reminder about what you need to do for these live sessions and info about the live sessions with teachers:**

These sessions will take place on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and we have staggered these times as we know some children may need to share a digital device with their siblings and therefore cannot all be on at once. When accessing these sessions please ensure the following:

- That your child will be working in a secure and appropriate environment and consider what can be seen on screen e.g. appropriate backgrounds.
- That all people attending the session are appropriately dressed.
- Please mute your sound to ensure there is no background noise or interference during the session. We will invite the children to unmute or use the chat at times during the session.

<b>Year Group:</b>	<b>Time slot: (Tues/Thurs/Fri)</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	9:00 - 9:30am
<b>Year 5</b>	9:30 - 10:00am
<b>Year 4</b>	10:00 - 10:30am
<b>Year 3</b>	10:30 - 11:00am

<b>Year 2</b>	11:00 - 11:30am
<b>Year 1</b>	11:30 - 12:00pm

Finally, please note that in order for teachers to have their statutory PPA time, school will close at 12.00pm on Fridays and the school office will close at this time too. Remote Learning will finish at 12.00pm on Fridays and resume on a Monday morning.

### **For those children accessing Education in School:**

The children accessing education in school have settled quickly into their year group classes and have sensibly followed the exact same safety measures as before. They have been accessing the same learning as those doing it remotely and have been super stars at cracking on with this.

### **Fridays**

Reminder that school closes at 12.00pm on Friday to ensure there is adequate planning and preparation time for the following week. If your child is entitled to a free school dinner, or if you have ordered a dinner, they will bring home a picnic bag on a Friday to then have at home, as lunchtime is after this time.

### **PE**

We have had questions about PE and wearing PE kits. The children will continue to do PE, although the team from The Spires Collage will not be able to come in at the moment, they are sharing with us lots of brilliant ideas. Here are the PE days and we ask that children come in their (warm) PE kits on these days:

Mon - Year 2

Tue - Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

Wed - Year 3

Thu - Year 1 and EYFS

Please remember it is full uniform on other days and extra layers as school is cool with the extra ventilation we are having as part of our COVID -19 safety plans.

### **Info for all parents**

I am sure we are all more than aware now of the rules of this National Lockdown and what it means for us but have included a link here regarding the rules. It is vitally important not just for our school community but the wider Torbay community that we are all following these rules. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Please also remember that if anyone in your household develops COVID-19 symptoms, to isolate and book a test. Please keep us informed of any positive tests so we can be tracking in the community and offering support. For those children in school, we will continue to track any symptomatic child or household member straight away. If anyone in your household, starts to



develop symptoms, please book a test by calling 119 or using the link:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/coronavirus/restrictions/>

Finally, I know from the last lockdown how vital it is to stay connected. Staying in touch is so important for all of our wellbeing and mental health. Remember we are here for you and our family support and safeguarding teams will continue to be on hand should you need them. I hope that the live sessions, the live assembly and sharing photos with teachers via their teacher email will really support staying connected. In addition, we will be starting with weekly class letters again next week, which will be sent to all as well as our Curriculum Booklets, which we send at the start of each term. I will keep you updated with any changes from the Government, which affects us as a school as well as this, I will write to you with a weekly update so we all have an overview about our whole school. I am also looking at other creative ways we can connect virtually- watch this space.

Take care, and keep safe, stay connected with us and let us know if there is anything we can do to help. Although this current time is no doubt hard, there is light and our Vision of 'Together we take strides towards a brighter future' really is so clear, thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Semmens".

Mrs Semmens

Head of Academy

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