



7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Remote Learning at Sandfield**

As you may be aware, all schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning.

This letter outlines our plans for remote learning for children. Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at Sandfield.

In line with updated DFE guidance, primary schools are being required to set work that is of equivalent length to the teaching that children would receive in school. Therefore, as a minimum, all primary schools will be providing three hours of home learning a day. The emphasis is very much on learning.

As part of the GEP, Sandfield was pivotal in the implementation and embedding of Seesaw as a class learning tool from October 2019 until March 2020. During this initial class learning time, Seesaw became our 'go to' feedback tool. As we have embedded the use of Seesaw daily, children at Sandfield have become proficient Seesaw users. When children return to school, Seesaw will remain a key element of our learning offer and remains the best home learning platform for our children.

We believe that the use of Seesaw and Tapestry provide the best remote learning offer during these challenging times. The benefits of using Seesaw are:

- Daily video announcements made by classteachers to explain the learning tasks as well as outline the expectations for the day ahead. Top tips for learning can be shared and feedback from the previous day can be given.
- For each activity uploaded, where appropriate, there will be a teacher audio explanation. This audio will explain the learning and how to use the resources attached.
- For English tasks, there could be an additional video to demonstrate the learning further and to show the outcome. These will be sent as an announcement.
- For Maths tasks, Sandfield are continuing to follow the White Rose teaching videos, which have been created by specialist maths teachers.
- The feedback options on Seesaw and Tapestry are excellent. No other remote learning platform provides this bespoke feedback to children on a 1:1 basis. Feedback is the key to be a successful learner.
- Family Seesaw provides a direct messaging contact with the class teacher, which many parents have found extremely helpful.

**Headteacher: Mrs Kate Collins**

*Email:* [reception@sandfield.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:reception@sandfield.surrey.sch.uk) *Website:* [www.sandfield.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.sandfield.surrey.sch.uk)

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To supplement Seesaw and Tapestry, we will be offering daily 'live' Zoom assemblies and regular 'live' phase group story times. More information on these will follow. These Zoom sessions give us the opportunity to connect to all families that have the capacity to access Zoom.

Our aim is for all children to feel that they are very much part of Sandfield whether they are learning from home or at school. This underpins our vision that **'Everyone is welcome, everyone belongs and everyone is important.'**

The rationale behind Sandfield continuing with Seesaw and Tapestry, and not switching to full 'live' lessons, is that children and families can access learning at a time that suits them best. Those families with more than one child of school age, would need multiple devices to access learning. This could prove challenging in households where parents are using Zoom at the same time as their children.

A further disadvantage to 'live' learning is the effect it can have on wireless signal. Households might require further technological support and specific equipment to improve this. All videos and audio explanations can be paused and re-played at any point. For young children, live learning can become tiring and passive with limited feedback given. Often during 'live' lessons, children will hold up their work to the camera for the teacher to see. This approach means that 1:1 feedback is not possible.

We feel that our remote learning offer provides a rich balance of opportunities to connect to your class teacher and others as well as providing essential feedback.

Many thanks to those families who have contacted the school already regarding our home learning. All feedback is welcome.

*'Thank you for the login. My child is up and running. Thanks again for all that you are doing. I can't imagine how tricky this must be, especially given the short notice. My child enjoyed all the work yesterday and it really felt like a full day of school. Fantastic!'*

*'Following on from Mr Williamson's (frankly unbelievable comments) I just want to let you know how incredibly grateful we are for everything all the Sandfield staff are doing during this difficult time. We are loving the activities set by our child's class teacher and were really surprised with how quickly we were sent work to do given the amount of time you had to prepare online learning for the children whilst also teaching those in school.'*

Please understand that the announcement to switch to remote learning was received on Monday 4th January at 8pm. As a whole school staff, we have worked incredibly hard to organise our critical worker groups in school, provide IT equipment to families who require it as well as deliver remote learning at such short notice. The well-being and education of all children at Sandfield is at the heart of every decision we make.

We thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Kate Collins  
Headteacher