

Morecambe Bay School Home Learning Statement – 7th January 2021

The Government has called for a national lockdown insisting that wherever possible people should stay at home, in order to stay safe and protect the NHS. We are currently providing seven in school bubbles of around 10-12 children for Critical workers/ Vulnerable children and are using guidelines to assist us in deciding who should attend this provision.

We have therefore shared the following request with parents in a letter dated 06/01/2021.

I ask you to seriously consider whether your child really needs the place in school if you have requested one, or if you can make alternate arrangements that will lessen the risk to everyone. I also request that if you have been offered a place you only send your child in on the days that you are working as this will also lessen the risk to everyone. If one parent, regardless of whether you live together or not, can cover child care then please do this.

All other children are attending online learning sessions using the Google Classroom and Google Meet facility. This facility requires that children log on to their class Google Meet every morning and afternoon where they are met by the teacher and support staff assigned to their Google classroom. Using this facility, they engage in online interaction with their classmates and teacher, playing games together, receiving classroom teaching and assistance to be able to complete the coursework for that learning session provided in their Google Classroom. Using the chat facility, they are able to ask for assistance as they work through their on-line tasks and the teacher/ support staff can arrange a separate meet to provide 1:1 support.

Learning tasks are planned and prepared collaboratively by the teachers in each phase ensuring that there is equity of coverage and appropriate expectation regardless of which forum the children are learning in.

Each child will have access to learning sessions for 3 hrs am and 2 hrs pm, though they can submit work to be assessed or marked at any point within the time the teacher request, some activities may take more than a day, some will take a short time but may be submitted to the teacher at any time during that school day.

For children who are on the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) register or receive additional support, we have made packs for each individual child which will be collected each week. Feedback will be given and a new pack supplied each week. Children with these packs will still join Google Meet to meet with their teachers.

We acknowledge that home school learning is challenging and that parents and families may wish to work within a different timetable to the normal school day, nevertheless we do ask that all children log on to the twice daily Google Meet sessions at the times stipulated. If families fail to log on somebody from the class staff team will contact to offer remote support to ensure that they are able to do so. If they still fail to attend a member of Senior Leadership Team will phone to offer further assistance and reinforce the importance of attendance.

Our remote provision has been very well accessed and appreciated by those using it with one parent commenting; “I just want to say a huge thanks for today, my son had a very productive day, completed all his work and enjoyed seeing his classmates and his teacher. This is a great way to learn from home for them, so thank you for saving us parents from trying to play teacher.” We have made support available as we appreciate it can be frustrating to struggle with an unfamiliar system, through our in-school IT support team, Mr Weightman and Mr Finnigan who are ready to sort any problems; parents are invited to ring the school office number if they require such assistance.

Our IT support team and Senior Leadership Team are also assisting parents to loan equipment to facilitate home learning, laptops are available, Mobile Phone Network boosting SIM cards are available on request and we are attempting to source assistance for 4G Router facilities.